



HOMER GLEN
YOU KNOW YOU'RE HOME

FALL/WINTER NEWS
2021



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FROM
THE MAYOR



Dear Residents and Businesses of Homer Glen:

As the weather cools, we look back on the fun we've had this summer and what we have in store for 2022.

This summer saw the return of events to Heritage Park. Our residents enjoyed summer evenings at *Movies Under the Stars*; live music, food trucks, and a variety of vendors at the Village's new community market, *Market in the Glen*; colorful creations by our local artists at *Chalk-It-Up*; good-natured competition at our annual *Harvest Bags Tournament*; and creepy crawly creatures courtesy of *Crosstown Exotics* along with an introduction to the stars by local astronomers at *Stargazing*.

Please join the Village this fall as we host a variety of holiday-inspired events including the return of the popular *Trunk or Treat* event and the always magical *Homer for the Holidays* light display. Stay current with all the news and offerings around town by visiting our Facebook page and website.

Our newly elected Trustees have been busy acclimating to the work of a Village Board. Recently, the Village approved a new Intergovernmental Agreement with the Homer Township Road District. Read more about that on the following page. Next on the agenda, the Board has begun discussion with Homer Township on the acquisition of some Township parks.

The celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the incorporation of Homer Glen this spring highlighted for us that, while we are no longer a new Village, we still have some growing to do. The primary work of the Board is to determine where the Village is headed next year and into the future.

I am appreciative of all our businesses, residents, organizations, and employees who do their part to help whenever the Village calls upon you. Thank you for your support! I wish you all a healthy and safe remainder of the year.

Warm regards,

Mayor George Yukich



VILLAGE UPDATES

PUBLIC WORKS

This winter will be the first for the Homer Glen Public Works Department, and the seasoned and skilled Public Works staff is hard at work preparing for the season.

TOWNSHIP COOPERATION

Last month, the Village Board and Homer Township Road District Commissioner reached a new agreement defining the roles of Homer Glen Public Works and the Road District. As part of the agreement, the Village is responsible for snow plowing, tree trimming and mowing in unincorporated Homer Township. The Village will then invoice the Road District for labor and material costs associated with performing the work. The Homer Township Road District will remain responsible for minor field duties including asphalt repair, pothole patching and routine maintenance in unincorporated Homer Township. In addition, the agreement allows for the shared use of equipment, allowing for both entities to efficiently work together for the taxpayers.

OH NO, SNOW!

With the onset of winter, please note that all road maintenance, including snow plowing within the Village of Homer Glen, is provided by the Public Works Department. For questions regarding the roads call **708-966-0059**.



SNOW PLOWING

Public Works is committed to keeping the streets clear, as the Road District did for decades. The Village has access to advanced weather forecasting that allows staff to accurately prepare schedules and road treatment methods.

WINTER PARKING

The Village of Homer Glen is strictly enforcing the no-parking ordinance for two or more inches of snow. It is important to keep vehicles off the streets until they have been cleared of snow. Parked cars will be ticketed by the Will County Sheriff's Office.

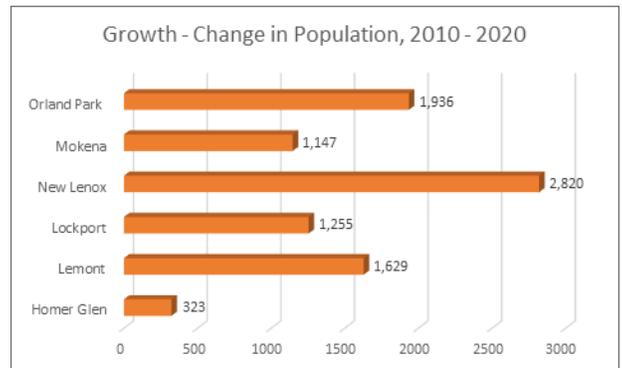


**CHRISTINA
NEITZKE-TROIKE**
VILLAGE CLERK

2020 CENSUS

Census data is important to our Village because it tells us who we are and where we are going as a community. The data collected helps shape our representative districts and guides Village decisions on housing, business, and transportation.

While official results are not yet available, the Census Bureau has begun to release preliminary data. The Village of Homer Glen's reported 2020 Census population is 24,543. Homer Glen's population grew 1.01% in the ten years since the 2010 Census (24,220). The graph on the right compares Homer Glen's population growth in population from the 2010 Census with neighboring communities.



For official 2020 Census data about the nation, states, and communities like Homer Glen visit: [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)



COMMITTEE REPORTS

VILLAGE COMMITTEES

Village Committees stand as recommending bodies to the Village Board. Committee Chair assignments were established with the new Village Board this summer and a new committee, the Ability Awareness Committee, was developed. Committee meetings are open to the public and the Village encourages residents to attend meetings in order to gain insight about projects in development and initiatives being brought forward by the Board. All meetings take place at Village Hall, located at 14240 W 151st Street.



ABILITY AWARENESS

The purpose of the Ability Awareness Committee (AAC) is to develop productive programs, generate services, provide information and support as well as coordinate with other committees, businesses and residents to aid in the enrichment and independence for all differently abled residents in Homer Glen.

The AAC hit the ground running this past summer with a Pop Tab Challenge that collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and with generous local donations gifted two families with special needs a vacation to Disney World.

Through an online survey, the Committee asked residents for their feedback to

better understand the needs within our community of people with different abilities. To participate in the survey visit the AAC page on the Village website. There's also a link to follow for residents interested in volunteering with the AAC.

The AAC Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community and Economic Development Committee (CED) addresses issues related to comprehensive planning, growth strategies, community services, business retention, and marketing.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CED Committee worked diligently to support local businesses through the dissemination of federal and state assistance program information and through the Village's own small business loan program.

This year the committee established a Commercial Building Improvement Grant Program that was recently approved by the Village Board. It's goal is to assist local businesses with improvements, facades, signs, life-safety, accessibility, utilities and more. See page 9 for more information.

The CED Committee meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Committee supports the preservation of Homer Glen's natural resources through the conservation design ordinance, the protection of trees, encouraging native landscaping, and sustainability measures for future generations.

Recently, the committee hosted the annual fall Stargazing event with an "Incredible Bats" nocturnal animal exhibit and public viewing of large telescopes with amateur astronomers. The committee also celebrated Homer Glen Lands Week this October with a community cleanup event. Residents were encouraged to work together to keep Homer Glen beautiful. In appreciation of their efforts, participants are invited to a catered event with the committee members.

The Environment Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

HOMER COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

The Village was pleased to host HomerFest, Homer Glen's annual community festival, this year after its cancellation in 2020.

Despite some rain, the event was a success. This year the festival celebrated its 10th Anniversary, alongside the 20th Anniversary of the incorporation of Homer Glen. To honor these milestones, a special flyover by the Lima Lima Flight Team occurred

the first night. Fireworks, carnival fun, local eats, and rockin' bands rounded out the festival and proved Homer Glen still knows how to party!

The committee is back to work planning for the 2022 festival. Trustee Fialko is excited to bring some fresh ideas to this long-standing community event.

The Homer Community Festival Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

PARKS & RECREATION

With continued opportunities for development at Heritage Park and the potential for expanding the Village's roster of parks, the Parks & Recreation Committee has been busy this fall discussing next steps for the Village's park system. The committee is looking forward to expanding parks and trails amenities and recreation services.

One challenge the committee faces this year is the hiring of parks and facilities staff. It has been increasingly difficult to find seasonal park workers as well as contractors to assist with special park maintenance projects. Visit the Village website for job opportunities.

The committee is grateful for the staff the Village does have and the hard work they do to maintain the Village's parks and trails.

The Parks and Recreation Committee meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.



PUBLIC SERVICES & SAFETY

The Public Services and Safety Committee's goal is to review issues relating to general public safety. Residents are encouraged to send requests to the committee relating to traffic, speed limit reductions, pedestrian crossing, on-street parking, and private property maintenance.

Recently, the committee finalized a new ordinance banning unlicensed off-road vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, and off-road motorcycles on public property. See the box below for full information regarding this new ordinance.

The Public Services and Safety Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

VILLAGE ORDINANCES

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

The Village recently adopted an ordinance regulating the use of unlicensed off-road motor vehicles after numerous complaints of riders damaging utility easements, public, and private property. This ordinance will now ban off-road vehicles on public property such as streets, sidewalks, schools, parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas.

Unlicensed off-road motor vehicles shall mean any battery operated, electric or gas driven wheeled scooter, motor driven bicycle, all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, minibikes, motorized skateboards, off-road motorcycles, and golf carts.

Parents or guardians of any minor who fail to exercise care to prevent the operation of any unlicensed off-road motor vehicle by such minor is in violation of this ordinance

and shall be liable for any and all damages and injuries to persons or property.

The goal of the ordinance is to promote public safety, reduce the nuisance to residents, and reduce damage to property. Operators or owners of any unlicensed off-road motor vehicle who violates any provision of the ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000 but no more than \$2,500 for each offense.

LEAF-BURNING PERMIT

Village Ordinance requires residents to obtain a Leaf Burning Permit before any open burning of leaves on residential property.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and follow these rules to minimize the danger of burning.

- Only burn landscape material that is completely dry and free from non-organic debris.
- Open burning is prohibited on Village roadways, sidewalks, and other right-of-ways.
- For safety reasons, open burning fires must be at least 50 feet from all structures & property lines.
- Never burn when the wind speed is below 5 m.p.h. or over 15 m.p.h.
- All fires must be constantly attended with some type of extinguishing device such as a garden hose or fire extinguisher.
- Avoid burning on holidays.

As a safe alternative to burning, all yard waste can be picked up by Homewood Disposal on your regular pickup day April 1 - November 30, at no extra cost.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spooky Park

October 2-31 @ Heritage Park
Come out to Heritage Park - day or night - for bats, spiders, ghosts, and lights! The park will be decorated with all things spooky the month of October.

Scarecrow Walk

October 2-29 @ Heritage Park
Walk along Heritage Circle and view the creative scarecrow displays. Vote for your favorite! Three winners will be chosen.

Trunk Or Treat

Saturday, October 23 @ Heritage Park, 3 to 5 p.m.
Drop by for a free, spooktacular afternoon of trick-or-treating in our safe, family-friendly environment. Wear your costumes and meander our decorated, candy-filled vehicle trunks. To register your vehicle visit the Village website at: <http://homerglenil.org/2578/Trunk-or-Treat>

Mike Hike

Saturday, November 6, Sign-in begins at 8 a.m.
Plan to bring the family out for this community event as the Mike Hike 5k Run/Walk returns to the Homer Glen Heroes Trail for the 10th Anniversary Celebration! Register online at <http://mikehike5k.com>.

Veterans Day Celebration

Sunday, November 7 @ Konow's Corn Maze, 12 to 2 p.m.
Join us for an afternoon of fun, family, and food to Honor & Recognize all of those who are serving or that have served our country & their families.

Veterans Day Care Packages

The Veterans Celebration Committee will be putting together care packages to deliver to our local veterans. If you or someone you know is a veteran living in Homer Glen, please contact us at 708-301-0632 to be put on the delivery list. Care packages will be delivered November 11.



All Events are **FREE** and **Open to All**, unless otherwise noted.

Homer For The Holidays

December 4 @ Heritage Park, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Ring in the holiday season with the Village of Homer Glen. Santa Claus will join us for the annual lighting of the holiday display around the Active Core. Stay for music and seasonal refreshments.

Snowman Lane

December 4 - January 3 @ Heritage Park
Individuals, families, organizations, and businesses can decorate a snowman to be displayed in Heritage Park along "Snowman Lane." Residents can vote for their favorite snowman. Top three snowmen will win a prize! Snowman will be on display beginning December 4. To participate in the decorating contest visit: <http://homerglenil.org/2555/Homer-for-the-Holidays>

Santa Celebration

December 5 @ Homer Township Public Library, 1 to 3 p.m.
14320 W 151st Street
Holiday festivities include visits with Santa and other winter characters.

Holiday Crafts & Cocoa

December 11 @ Village Hall Community Room, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Little ones are invited to come by for a photo with Santa and holiday crafts, hot cocoa, and cookies!



Photo courtesy of Rootsie Photography

Due to the continuing COVID-19 situation events may be canceled or rescheduled at any time. Events may also be canceled or changed due to inclement weather. Check the Village Facebook page and website for event updates.

When you attend an event at the Village of Homer Glen you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By entering the event premises you consent to such recording media and its release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for Village promotional purposes.

For more information about Events visit the Special Events section on the website under Community or check us out on Facebook @villageofhomerglen



SO LONG SUMMER



Clockwise from top: Lucas Alexander entertains at *Market in the Glen*; one of the winning chalk drawings from *Chalk-It-Up*; folks get comfortable before *Movie Under the Stars*; Crosstown Exotic's Burmese Python says hi to the crowd at *Stargazing*; the Lima Lima Flight Team in formation at *HomerFest*; and bags in action at the *Harvest Bags Tournament*.

THANK YOU! 2021 SPONSORS

- All Around Amusements
- AT&T
- BI-Rental
- Booth Orthodontics
- Bump & Grind Auto Body, Inc.
- Busey Bank
- Chesdan's Pizzeria and Restaurant
- Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
- The Dan Kenney Group
- Elite Dance Academy
- Fannie May
- Goodlife Physical Therapy
- Heritage Corridor Business Alliance
- Holistic Riding Equestrian Therapy
- Home Depot
- Homer Twp. Professional Firefighters L4223
- Homer Tree Care, Inc.
- Homewood Disposal Service
- HR Green, Inc.
- Jewel-Osco
- Kenwood Liquors
- Konow's Corn Maze
- Kurts German Autowerks, Inc.
- Lakeshore Beverage
- M&D Farms
- Meijer - Homer Glen
- Momentum Dance Studio
- Nick's Barbecue
- Old Plank Trail Community Bank
- RE/MAX Millennium
- Renew Family Health Center
- Richards Building Supply
- SKYDAN Real Estate
- State Farm - Michelle Kerfin
- Tazza Italian Ristorante
- Xfinity





AROUND TOWN



NEW DESTINATION ~ THE PHOENIX KITCHEN & COCKTAILS

Newest to the dining scene in Homer Glen is The Phoenix Kitchen & Cocktails with an exciting menu serving locally sourced New American cuisine. As a modern upscale casual, shared plate dining experience, guests can enjoy an array of different cooking techniques, styles and flavors. Unique features include a grow room providing fresh organic micro greens, hand-crafted cocktails, a wine cellar, a semi-open kitchen with a mesquite wood fired grill, and an 850-degree brick oven. Gather with your friends and family to enjoy mixing and matching shareable plates at The Phoenix, 15905 S Bell Road.



WATCH US GROW

Residents will soon have the convenience of two new retailers at their doorstep. Construction of the new Culver's and the Pet Supplies Plus store on 143rd Street are progressing well. Both businesses currently target opening in mid-November.



PHASE II TOWNHOMES APPROVED FOR THE SQUARE OF GOODINGS GROVE

M/I Homes received Village Board approval for Phase II of the townhome development at The Square of Goodings Grove, adding 30 additional units. The second phase will complete the build out of the site just north of the Home Depot for a total of 106 new townhomes. Residents at The Square enjoy convenient access to grocery, home improvement stores, restaurants and services in the busy 143rd/Bell Road retail hub in Homer Glen.



NEW BRAND FOR THE STOCK + FIELD STORE

There is a new name on the front of the Homer Glen store and a fresh approach to customer commitment. R.P. Lumber Co., Inc., has acquired all 22 Stock + Field locations and has re-branded them as R.P. Home & Harvest. The new ownership is customer-focused in its service to offer products essential to a rural lifestyle. Product categories include farm supply, livestock feed, sporting goods, footwear, apparel, hardware, lawn & garden, automotive, pet, housewares, grocery, and much more.



WESTERN GATEWAY

The Village's new gateway sign at the northeast corner of 159th Street and Gougar Road is now in place! The installation will be completed with the upcoming electrical connection to light the sign and landscape planting. The new gateway sign is part of the roll-out of the new marketing brand promoting the Village's unique identity.

NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Mayor George Yukich and the Village Board of Trustees announce a new business assistance program as part of the Village's continuing effort to support local businesses and inspire economic growth. The purpose of this grant program is to mitigate the financial challenges associated with building improvements to facades, signs, life-safety, accessibility, utilities and more. Approved on September 22, the Commercial Building Improvement Grant Program will reimburse up to 50% of approved costs with a maximum grant award amount of \$10,000. Commercial building owners, existing business tenants, and new businesses with eligible projects are invited to apply. Assistance will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, based on funds availability. For program details and application, visit the Economic Development Department page on the Village website.

HOMER HELPS MICRO PANTRY

*Homer Township Public Library
14320 W 151st, Homer Glen, IL 60491*

The "Homer Helps Micro Pantry" is a free little food pantry with non-perishable, unexpired food and personal care items. Everyone is encouraged to "take what they need, leave what they can." Library staff oversee the pantry and filled the pantry with its first donations of food and toiletries. Please share information with those that may find value in using it: teens, college students, adults, seniors - and please consider creating a CARE PACKAGE to drop to anyone who you think would appreciate it. Simply bring a bag and pay it forward! Sponsors include Old

Plank Trail Community Bank and the Gleaners Oak Arbor. The Library thanks them along with all community members for donations and support! Donations can be placed inside the pantry and inside the library on shelves adjacent to the New Book area. You are free to take from the inside donation shelves, too!

WHAT CAN YOU DONATE?

- Canned goods such as canned fruit, vegetables, proteins, etc.
- Dry foods such as pasta, cereal, protein bars, oatmeal, spices, etc.
- Baby food, diapers, and wipes
- Personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap,

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!

- Be Well Physical Therapy
- State Farm Meaghan Good
- Home Improvement Discount
- Soloymi Inc.
- Gas N Wash
- Ta Canijo (inside Gas N Wash)
- Dunkin' (inside Gas N Wash)
- Game On Bar & Grill (inside Megaplex)
- Fitness Premier (inside Megaplex)
- Edge Music Academy
- Ramas Repair Corporation
- The Phoenix Kitchen & Cocktails
- Captain Cook Fish Chicken & Grill
- Hardway Enterprises
- I Fix It
- R.P. Home & Harvest



- deodorant, menstrual products, etc.
- Household items such as sponges, household cleaners, dish soap, laundry detergent, etc.
- Pet food and supplies
- Gift cards (Please leave gift cards with library staff. Gift cards will be used to purchase goods and maintain the pantry when items are low.)

For more information visit the library website at: <https://homerlibrary.org/homerhelpsmicropantry>



COMMUNITY & NATURE

Congratulations to our 2021 Award Recipients!

Through the efforts of the Environment Committee, the Village created the Community and Nature in Harmony Award in 2002. Now in 2021, the 20th year for awards, the Village again recognizes individuals, businesses, community organizations, and governmental agencies that have demonstrated a commitment to the environment and in the process significantly contributed to community pride through the preservation, restoration, and/or beautification of land within the Village of Homer Glen.

Mike De Vivo

For demonstrating a commitment to preserve the environment by significantly contributing to the formation and incorporation of the Village of Homer Glen and supporting numerous environmental projects and events for 20 years.

Harry Abramowicz

For the restoration and refurbishing of the Pebble Creek Subdivision entrance sign.

Inga Carbonara

For the restoration and refurbishing of the Meadowview Subdivision entrance sign.

The Gewerth Family

For creating an established garden, 26 years in the making, with over 300 varieties of plants. The garden boasts mature trees with natural plantings and perennial borders.

The Mueller Family

For establishing a beautiful garden with a selection of plants that provides year-long color, variety and multiple places to sit and enjoy nature.

John and Kimberly Pady

For planting a pollinator garden that supports populations of Monarch butterflies and many other beneficial insects.

Jon and Sonya Pederson

For creating an attractive garden at the entrance to their home that adds beautiful curb appeal to the neighborhood.





Thomas Rejczak

For creating of numerous evergreen trees of various species in the front yard of his property.

Sandy Vail

For creating a SunSHINE Garden that showcases a woven mixture of colorful annuals, perennials and unique conifers.

Kenwood Liquors

For protecting the environment through the promotion of reusable plastic bags used in their business.

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

For outstanding commitment to the environment through the efforts of long-term maintenance of the prairie garden on the church grounds.

Nicole & Dominic Bellantuono

For the removal of invasive plants from four acres and the seeding of that land with native plant seeds and working to restore the property to a native prairie.

Patrick and Christina Moroney

For continuing to add beautiful gardens to their backyard.

Homer Glen Bell Plaza Development

For the beautification of major roadway corridors in Homer Glen with perimeter landscaping installed along the southwest corner of 143rd Street and Bell Road at the Homer Glen Bell Plaza Development.



HOMER GLEN
YOU KNOW YOU'RE HOME



INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER

Matt Walsh

EDITOR

Amy Blank

TELEPHONE

708-301-0632

EMAIL

mwalsh@homerglenil.org

ablank@homerglenil.org

VILLAGE FACILITIES

VILLAGE HALL

14240 W. 151st Street

708-301-0632

Administration Department: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Building Department: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS

14400 W. 151st Street

708-966-0059

HERITAGE PARK

Located behind Village Hall

ERIN HILLS PARK

13725 S. Dublin Drive

EVLYN'S GATE NORTH PARK

16066 S. Syd Creek Drive

GLENVIEW WALK PARK

15603 James Lane

GOODINGS GROVE PARK

13900 S. Greystone Drive

KINGSTON HILLS PARK

14848 S. Carlton Lane

STONEBRIDGE PARK

16000 S. Stonebridge Drive