

HOMER GLEN

Community Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2024

ROAD NEWS

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HOMER GLEN



MESSAGE *from the* MAYOR

Autumn Greetings!

The air is beginning to turn crisp, and I hope this fall brings calmer weather compared to the storms we experienced this summer. Even with some of the intense weather we faced, I am thrilled to report that our residents stayed safe. While those storms left behind some damage and quite a few downed branches, our Public Works Department stepped up, showing their dedication by swiftly handling the cleanup. Their hard work and commitment to assisting our community truly shines. Learn more about the services they provide on page 7.

This summer was packed with events, and we received fantastic feedback from residents about HomerFest, Movie Under the Stars, and our new event addition, the Kids Fishing Derby. Our events team has been buzzing with activity, and though their plates are still full with upcoming holiday events this fall and winter, rest assured—they will get a well-deserved break in January! For a sneak peek at the fun and festivities we have in store, check out page 8.

One topic that is still a concern for many is the future of 143rd Street. We have the latest updates on that, as well as, all the other road construction projects happening around town on page 6. Plus, there's important information on the proposed rate hike from Illinois American Water and tips on how you can help fight this cause on page 4.

As you likely know, I am passionate about helping those in need and supporting under-served groups, including our Veterans and special-needs residents. If you would like to join us in supporting these causes or feel inspired to volunteer, please don't hesitate to reach out to events@homerglenil.org.

I am also passionate about listening to our residents and love being interactive on our social media pages. However, if there is an issue the Village should know about or you need immediate assistance, please call the Village directly at **708-301-0632** or reach out on the official Village Facebook page [villageofhomerglen](https://www.facebook.com/villageofhomerglen). We want to make sure your message is heard!

Warm regards,

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

Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troiike



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Pictured (l to r) Trustee CJ McNaughton, Trustee Curtis Mason, Trustee Jennifer Consolino, Clerk Candice Bielski, Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troiike, Trustee Rose Reynders, Trustee Sue Steilen, Trustee Dan Fialko



TAKE ACTION AGAINST IAW

The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) has been fighting for customers against the proposed Illinois American Water (IAW) rate hikes. The CUB has been hosting public forums in opposition to the rate increase. One recent forum in Bolingbrook was attended by Mayor Neitzke-Troike and some of our Village Trustees who voiced their opposition to the rate increase.

Residents can also take action against the rate-hike request by:

1. Signing the CUB's petition against IAW's increase.
2. Filing a public comment against IAW's increase with the ICC.

Both of these actions can be done online.

1. Go to the Village's website homerglenil.org.
2. On the homepage click on the news box titled "Take Action."

This will lead you to the links for the CUB and ICC pages.

Water remains a frequently discussed topic in Homer Glen, with residents often expressing concerns about its cost and inquiring about ways to reduce rates. The Village's relationship with its water utility has been complex. For those who may not be familiar with the history of this relationship, here is a brief summary.

The water company originally responsible for managing Homer Glen's water, Citizens Utilities, was acquired by Illinois American Water (IAW) in 2001. Illinois American Water still offers private utility services to Homer Glen, despite the fact that the Village does not have a formal agreement with IAW.

From the beginning, the Village of Homer Glen worked to fight the cost of water. Eighteen years ago, the Village partnered with neighboring communities and formed the Northern Will County Water Agency—with the goal to initiate litigation and take control of the water lines through eminent domain. The Village (and Water Agency) won the right to take over the pipeline; however, the lawsuit spanned close to a decade and involved numerous procedural obstacles. At the start of litigation, the cost to purchase the lines was approximately \$43 million, an amount the Water Agency could afford. Additionally, the cost for the Water Agency to operate the pipeline would be less than that of IAW. Now, the cost to purchase the line has increased to around \$200 million. After spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on the litigation, it became clear that the potential future cost savings from buying the pipeline and system would be far outweighed by the amount required to continue pursuing its takeover. That pursuit has now stopped. In its place a settlement agreement was met that addresses some of the concerns the Water Agency had with IAW, including:

- A cap on the American Lake Water transmission charge for five years.
- An update to the bill to clarify where a resident's money is going.
- A requirement of IAW to do a water study/audit no later than December 31, 2023 to identify areas of unaccounted for water that may be reduced.
- A call for specific capital projects to be completed in the next 5 years, one of which is the closing of the Derby Meadows facility to be replaced by a new pump station.

The settlement also touches on future collaboration items between the Water Agency and IAW.

The Village continues to fight IAW over any rate increases. Any increase must be approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). The Village will be participating in ICC proceedings and will be fighting against any of IAW's proposals for a rate increase. This issue is a top priority for the Village and we are exhausting all legal avenues for the prevention of any water service increases.

Additionally, the Village does have a vision plan for its future wastewater management. See the next page for more information on that project.

RECENT BOARD APPROVED ACTIVITY

Village Moves Towards Large Land Purchase With Sustainability And Growth In Mind

The Village of Homer Glen currently contracts with the City of Lockport to treat wastewater along the Fiddymont Creek Sanitary Sewer Line for specific users. Although this agreement extends through 2030, the City of Lockport has informed the Village that it will cease treating future wastewater from Homer Glen now unless substantial upgrades are made to Lockport's treatment facilities, which would impose significant costs on the Village.

As a result, the Village is moving forward with a plan to establish and operate its own wastewater treatment facility.

The Village Board recently approved an Agreement for Purchase and Sale, giving the Village of Homer Glen the exclusive right and option to purchase approximately 30 acres of property at 159th and Gougar Road for public use. This land has historically been used for agricultural purposes and currently contains two single family residences on the parcel.

Within the plan for this project, the Village is committed to developing a wastewater facility that leverages the latest, most cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable technologies. The Village aims to design a facility that harmonizes with the natural landscape and potentially offers multi-purpose functionality.

In line with our town motto, "Community and Nature in Harmony," our vision for this development is to create a facility that minimizes its environmental impact. The design vision is to include a shared wall system to reduce the overall

footprint and a 'polishing wetland' that serves as both a natural area and an environmentally responsible repository for treated effluent.

Drawing inspiration from our achievements in the Heritage Park 319 Grant area, we will use natural planting areas to enhance stormwater quality and further integrate the facility with its surroundings.

Exciting Expansion of Outdoor Seating Planned

This June, the Board approved an ordinance [HG-2412-SP] granting a special use permit for outdoor seating at Sam's Bar and Gaming at 12323 W. 143rd Street. Sam's Bar and Gaming have plans

to add a 960 square foot enclosed asphalt patio in the rear of their unit to create a comfortable outdoor patio for customers. They are also working with Village staff on a Commercial Building Improvement Grant Program application. More details on that program can be found on page 14. We look forward to enjoying the space hopefully by next summer!

Cul-De-Sac Underway

Construction on the approved cul-de-sac roadway and parking area in Heritage Park began this August. The new parking area, part of the original Heritage Park plan, will improve access to the sled hill during the winter months and serve as overflow parking for HomerFest and other large-scale events the Village hopes to host at the park in the future.



View of the property at 159th and Gougar Road

COUNTY AND STATE ROADWAYS

The Will County Division of Transportation owns and maintains both 143rd Street and Bell Road through the Village of Homer Glen. Because both roadways are under the jurisdiction of the county, the Village of Homer Glen does not have any rights to or responsibility for the current and proposed expansions of 143rd and Bell Road. We are monitoring both projects and the updates are as follows:

143rd Street

The proposed five lane expansion of 143rd Street between Lemont Road and Bell Road in the Village of Homer Glen is a project that has been planned for many years. Studies on this road were first done in 1991, with preliminary engineering beginning in 2009. The final segment of the project has been ongoing for the past 12 years. The county has already invested 6.2 million dollars in the traffic study, research, development, and engineering of the plan and have \$7 million in grant funding allocated to the widening project.

143rd Street, designated as a minor arterial by the Illinois Department of Transportation, has experienced an increase in traffic over the years, according to the county—from a count of 5,637 in 1990 to the latest IDOT count of 15,500 with projections of 22,000 for 2040.

The project is now pending due to a lawsuit filed by members of the Will County Board. Plaintiffs in this lawsuit are ten Will County Board members, acting in their full capacity as Board members, as stated in the lawsuit. This is the only lawsuit on file.

This lawsuit alleges that County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant wrongly vetoed Resolution 24-27 which would have directed the Will County Division of Transportation to cease the current planned expansion. The resolution also directed the Will County Division of Transportation to instead develop plans for a three lane expansion of 143rd with the third lane being a turning lane. The decision of curbs or open ditches were not discussed at this time. The Village attorneys have consulted with the attorneys for the plaintiffs (the county board) and are monitoring the case. The next scheduled court date regarding this case is September 12.

The Village of Homer Glen is actively evaluating and planning its next steps as the case progresses. The Village Board unanimously believes that this expansion is unnecessary and has contested the county's traffic count and justification for the expansion. The Village remains hopeful for a discussion on alternative options to the expansion once the current litigation is resolved.

Additionally, the Village is watching what happens with Senate Bill 3408 which would provide for a quick take of certain property along 143rd by Will County. Letters of opposition from the Village have been sent to our local senators and representatives along with those senators involved with the bill.

Bell Road

Will County has started the reconstruction and widening of Bell Road through Homer Glen. The improved configuration will be a new four lane road with double left hand turn lanes at the 143rd/Bell intersection.

With the ongoing construction there will be extensive utility relocations which will take place ahead of each phase. Some of the utility relocation has already begun and additional relocations and construction will be ongoing throughout the duration of the Bell Road widening project. The former Shell/Circle K gas station at the northwest corner of 143rd and Bell will be used as a construction staging area throughout the duration of the intersection improvement project. This project is broken down into three phases:

159th Street to 151st Street

Construction is ongoing. The project has been delayed due to additional utility relocations. The general contractor is expected to be back on site by September and will continue working towards completing this phase and moving into the next phase of construction on the west side of Bell Road. An updated schedule and anticipated completion dates for the next phases of construction will be added to the Village's website as the project progresses. Substantial completion is anticipated in Fall 2025.

151st Street to Martingale Lane

Property and right of way acquisition is ongoing. This project will start up once the previous phase (159th to 151st St.) is completed. The anticipated start date is third or fourth quarter of 2025.

143rd Street and Bell Road Intersection

Utility relocations are ongoing. This contract has been awarded and roadwork is anticipated to begin in April of 2025.



Village Roadwork: Committed to Caring for Our Streets

Roadwork in the Village has been a pressing concern, especially with projects like 143rd Street. Residents often seek clarity on completion timelines and whether projects will proceed. Several factors influence these road projects, and we aim to provide more clarity.

The Public Works Department provides all road maintenance, including snow plowing, within the Village—except for the streets that are under the jurisdiction of the Will County Division of Transportation or the Illinois Department of Transportation (143rd Street, Bell Road, and 159th Street).

Road maintenance includes road resurfacing and culvert, curb, and sidewalk repair and occurs on a rotating schedule. Residents in Hunt Club, Deboer Woods, Spring Creek, and Pebble Creek likely noticed the work that was done on their streets this summer. Advance signage is posted to notify residents and updates are included on the Village website and Facebook pages. All work is weather dependent, so dates are subject to change.

Aside from road work, the Public Works Department also trims and removes parkway trees and does some debris removal throughout the Village. The Public Works Department is not

responsible for pick up or removal of privately owned trees and branches, though we do like to help out when there has been a large, damaging storm.

For approximately two weeks following any major storm, Public Works will pick up branches from storm damage only. In the event of back-to-back storms, like this past summer, it may take the crew some time to tend to all of the debris. The Public Works crew does their best to provide this service as quickly as possible.

The same applies for snow removal. While we hope for a mild winter, we are prepared for the possibility of heavy snowfall. Often times, this includes preemptive salting before conditions become hazardous. As soon as it is required, we begin salting primary roads throughout the village in addition to hills, curves and intersections. We then shift focus to neighborhood roads.

Our goal is to clear snow from streets quickly. Please park vehicles in driveways, as parked cars may block plows. Winter parking restrictions take

effect with two or more inches of snow, and cars on roads will be ticketed by the Will County Sheriff's Office.

Residents can help by shoveling or blowing snow from their driveways onto the parkway next to the driveway apron or into the yard. Depositing snow on the street is a violation of village ordinance and creates hazards.

Our crews are careful to avoid damaging mailboxes, but sometimes it is unavoidable. Secure your mailboxes now, before the winter weather arrives and the ground is frozen. If your mailbox is damaged by one of our plows, report the damage within three days of the snow event by calling Public Works at **708-966-0059**.



HERITAGE PARK EVENTS

Meet the new Events Team! This summer, we welcomed Dan Waddick as Events Coordinator and Brittany Parra as Events & Production Coordinator. With their experience and diverse talents, they are bringing fresh energy to our events. As they settle in, some event dates may change, so check the Village website for updates. If you have suggestions or ideas for new events, reach out to us at events@homerglenil.org or check us out on Facebook at [villageofhomerglen](https://www.facebook.com/villageofhomerglen).



Chalk-It-Up

September 21 @ Heritage Park, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sidewalk chalk art contest. The event also includes games, music, treats and more! Pre-registration and \$5 fee required for those wishing to chalk. Visit the Village website for more information.

Scarecrow Walk

Registration begins September 5
Enjoy the fall season at Heritage Park with the creative scarecrow displays, crafted by our local residents and organizations. Create your own masterpiece to decorate the park. Entry fee \$15. Scarecrows must be completed by September 26 and will be on display the month of October. Scarecrow with the most votes will win a prize!

Movie Under the Stars

October 4 @ Heritage Park, 5:30 p.m.
The Village's first fall outdoor movie showing at Heritage Park. Food vendors on site with snacks for purchase.

Kids Fishing Derby

October 12 @ Heritage Park Pond, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Registration required. Entry fee \$5. Participants must be 15 years old or younger. Prizes awarded for most fish caught and longest fish caught.

Trunk or Treat

October 26 @ Heritage Park, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Drop by for a free afternoon of trick-or-treating in our safe, family-friendly environment. Wear your costumes and meander our decorated, candy-filled vehicle trunks. If you'd like to be a trunk participant, registration required on the Village website.



Events may be canceled or rescheduled at any time. Check the Village Facebook page and website for event updates. For more information visit the Village website under Community.

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.

HONOR OUR LOCAL VETERANS

Donate to the Village's Veterans Day Package Program and help us say "Thank You!" to our local veterans. Visit the Village website for an online donation option.

We already have an extensive resident Veteran list, but if you don't think you are on it and would like to be added, call the Village at 708-301-0632 or email events@homerglenil.org with the Veteran's name, mailing address, email, phone number, rank, and years of service.



Veterans Day Celebration at Konow's Corn Maze

November 3

12 - 3 p.m.

16849 S. Cedar Road

Join us for an afternoon of fun, family, and food to Honor and Recognize all of those who are serving or that have served our country and their families!

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteers are needed for our events. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. If you would like to volunteer fill out the application form found on the Village website under "Special Events" or call 708-301-0632.

The Village offers community service hours to high school students who volunteer at Village events.

WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Gnomer Glen

Registration begins November 1. Individuals, families, organizations, and businesses can decorate a holiday gnome or snowman to be displayed in Heritage Park. The display with the most votes will win a prize! Entry fee \$15. Gnomes and snowmen must be completed by November 20 and will be on display the month of December.

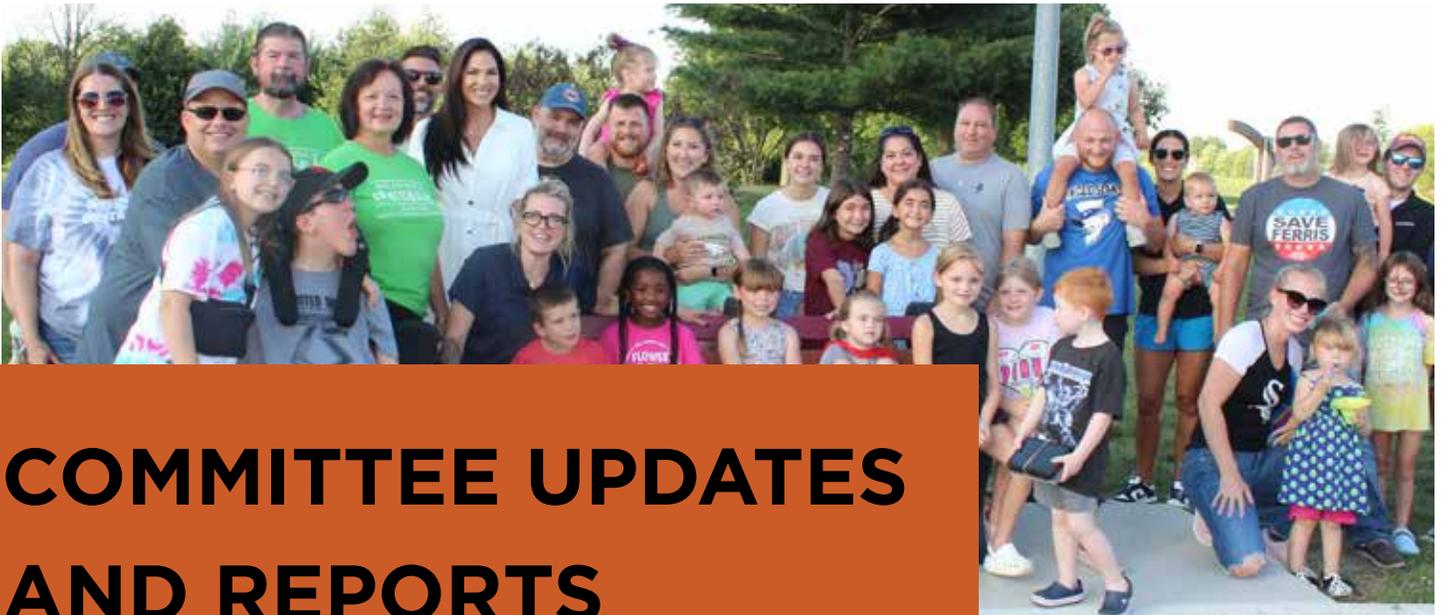
Homer for the Holidays

December 7 @ Heritage Park. Ring in the Holiday Season with the Village of Homer Glen! Photos with Santa, seasonal refreshments, tree lighting ceremony, and more!

Heritage Park Holiday Light Display

On view from December 7 through January 6.





COMMITTEE UPDATES AND REPORTS

Chaired by Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troike, the Ability Awareness Committee endeavors to provide information and support to aid in the enrichment and independence for all differently-abled residents of Homer Glen.

The committee hosts round-table discussions and workshops throughout the year to address important topics for parents and residents with disabilities, such as understanding your child's IEP and learning sign language.

Through fundraisers, the committee has enriched the community by adding an inclusive swing at Heritage Park, installing a sensory bubble wall at the Homer Township Public Library, and donating to the Lockport Fish Food Pantry. Their most recent charitable initiative was to create back-to-school "Movie Night" snack packs for families in need.

For questions, comments, to learn more, or to volunteer email the AAC at abilityawareness@homerglenil.org.

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

The Behavioral Health & Addiction Recovery Committee aims to promote awareness and for a comprehensive mental health system

for persons of all ages and to meet the identified needs of the general public for alcohol and drug evaluation, prevention, and treatment services for Homer Glen.

The committee is hosting their second Panel Discussion on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Board Room at Village Hall. This event will be organized similarly to the one hosted in February, with the addition of some new panelists and will run two hours. In response to the interest of the meeting being recorded, the Committee has agreed to film only the panelists to protect the privacy of attendees. The recording will be posted on the committee's Facebook page and other social media platforms.

This panel discussion helps to fulfill the committee's mission of outreach. More information and a link to RSVP for the event will be available on the Village website. Morning refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

The Behavioral Health & Addiction Recovery Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

For the Community Development Committee, the aim is to improve the quality of life for Homer Glen residents by enhancing communications and organizing engaging community events.

As such, the committee has been assisting the Events & Communications Department in the creation of new Village events and communication outlets. One such event was Family Fun Day, held this past August at Heritage Park immediately following the Homer Glen Community Parade.

Family Fun Day was a fantastic opportunity for residents to discover all that Heritage Park has to offer. It provided a lively atmosphere where kids and adults alike could enjoy games, entertainment, and a sense of community.

The Community Development committee meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the Economic Development Committee investigate innovative initiatives and incentives to foster the retention of local businesses and encourage the growth of new local business.

Current topics include video gaming and retail tobacco licensing; business improvement grant program; sign ordinances; and sales tax policy.

The Economic Development Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

HomerFest Does It Again!

The Community Fest Committee saw another successful HomerFest event. The weather was favorable for most of the event, and several days saw record-breaking attendance.

Aside from some updated rides and food vendors, the festival maintained its beloved setup, featuring a stellar fireworks show and an exciting lineup of professional bands.

Overall, HomerFest proved that once again the community of Homer Glen loves to have a good time and values the sense of togetherness found while strolling the festival grounds. The Village looks forward to welcoming you back next summer at HomerFest!

The Community Fest Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.



The Parks & Recreation Committee is making progress on exciting new enhancements for our parks. The committee recently reviewed plans for a new playground at the Villas of Old Oak, agreeing on a design that blends elegance with rustic charm.

The committee also offered input on the initial concept drawings for the completion of Heritage Park's amenities. After a lengthy bid process, the committee, with the Board's approval, elected to hire the Lakota

Group—an architecture firm well versed in landscape and park design—to bring Heritage Park to completion. Initial designs include a veterans memorial; an amphitheater; an interactive water feature; an expanded soccer field area; multiple bathrooms and pavilions; and landscaped paths to give easy access to pedestrians through the park.

The Parks and Recreation Committee meets on the first Friday at 9:30 a.m. and the third Monday at 4:00 p.m. of every month.

Green Initiative

The Environment Committee continues its commitment to preserving Homer Glen's natural resources through various initiatives and programs like Stargazing; Plastic-Free July; and Tree-Planting.

Plastic Free July

The 'Plastic Free July' Campaign is a global movement engaging millions in reducing plastic pollution for cleaner streets, oceans, and communities. Be part of Plastic Free July—all year long—by refusing single-use plastics. Check the list on the right for quick and easy tips to get started.

Memorial Tree Planting

The Memorial Tree and Marker Program managed by the committee allows families and friends to dedicate a tree and marker in honor of a loved one for any occasion. These dedications create lasting memories while enhancing the beauty of Village parks. Applications are available on the Village website.

The Environment Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

'PLASTIC-FREE' TIPS

- Use reusable coffee cups
- Opt for loose produce and plastic-free alternatives
- Carry reusable shopping bags
- Refuse plastic straws—use your own reusable alternative
- Use reusable water bottles instead of plastic ones
- Avoid using plastic when buying meats, fish, and deli goods
- Choose plastic free toothbrushes, toothpaste, and flosses
- Swap liquid soap for bar soap
- Replace disposable razors with reusable alternatives
- Refuse single-use plastic bathroom products
- Avoid disposable products and packaging
- Choose bulk or loose food to avoid prepackaged items
- Avoid cleaning products packaged in single-use plastic
- Choose natural fibers to reduce micro-plastics
- Use alternatives to cling wrap to reduce plastic pollution
- Get creative with your bin liners to reduce waste
- Organize a group to clean up a park or beach
- Avoid buying prepackaged baked goods—bring your own container



For More Plastic-Free Information!





This August, one of Homer Glen's own, Steve McMichael, was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. To celebrate this momentous occasion, McMichael's neighbors organized a gathering outside his home to honor him. Due to being in the late stages of ALS, McMichael was unable to attend the ceremony, but his neighbors hoped their cheers from the lawn would show him just how much they shared in his celebration. It was truly a day suited for a hometown hero.

Our Events and Production Coordinator, Brittany Parra, attended the event and captured footage from the crowd, which is now featured on the Village's public access cable channel, Channel 6 and our social media platforms. The Community Development Committee and Village administration hope that this type of community outreach helps bolster civic pride and fosters a true sense of togetherness among neighbors. Staff will continue to highlight these types of events as they arise, based on availability and time.

If you know of a community event or are part of an organization that could benefit from similar outreach, please send your request to bparra@homerglenil.org.



Pictured on left from top: Coordinator Parra interviews former Chicago Bears player, Tyrone Keys.

Mayor Neitzke-Troike expresses her pride in living in such a thoughtful and caring community as Homer Glen.

2024 SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to our local businesses that sponsored a Village event in 2024.

We are still looking for additional sponsors. For full details about the Village Sponsorship Program, visit the website at homerglenil.org under "Special Events" and click on "Sponsorship Program Packet".

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| AAA AMUSEMENT | FRONT ROW | MEIJER |
| BENGSTON'S | GAS N WASH | MUGSHOTS |
| BI RENTAL | HAWK CHEVY/CADILLAC | NICK'S BBQ |
| BOOTH ORTHODONTICS | HOME DEPOT | PORTA JOHNS |
| BUMP AND GRIND | HOMER TREE CARE | POWER HOME REMODELING |
| BUSEY BANK | HOMWOOD DISPOSAL | RENEWAL BY ANDERSEN |
| CHESDAN'S | HR GREEN | SAM'S LIQUOR AND GAMING |
| COLDWELL BANKER, KAROLINA KLINOWSKI | ISTORM RECOVERY | STANDARD CONSTRUCTION |
| COMED | JERSEY MIKE'S | STATE FARM - MICHELLE KERFIN |
| CULVER'S | KONOW'S CORN MAZE | TAZZA ITALIAN RISTORANTE |
| THE DAN KENNEY GROUP | LAKESHORE BEVERAGE | TIL MAR KENNELS |
| DAVIDSON'S BAR & GRILL | LAKOTA GROUP | WHITMORE ACE HARDWARE |
| ENZO'S PIZZERIA | LOBOZ AND ASSOCIATES | WINDOW NATION |

VILLAGE EXPANDS KNOWLEDGE

Village staff and Board is encouraged to take part in development workshops, trainings, and conventions throughout the year in order to increase knowledge, skills, and effectiveness.

Recently, the Parks Department participated in “Fire and Ice: The Landscape and Snow Expo” hosted by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association.

The event took place at the Morton Arboretum, in Lisle, and staff had the opportunity to network with vendors, learn about the latest machinery, and participate in demonstrations.

Similarly, the Village’s IT Manager, Mike Pearce, recently attended a quarterly meeting hosted by the GMIS Illinois Association—a group of local government information technology professionals who meet to learn about new trends, discuss common problems, and learn from each other.

Mr. Pearce found the meeting valuable, starting with a session by Crowd Strike representatives who discussed a recent incident where a coding error in an update caused millions of Windows machines to crash, impacting a broad range of users including local governments and major airlines.

He also gained insights into retention policies and their relationship with FOIA; ways to effectively utilize LinkedIn; and best practices for managing cyber attacks.

In September, our mayor and some trustees will attend the IML Conference in Chicago. The Illinois Municipal League’s (IML) Annual Conference is the premier educational and professional development event for all municipal officials in Illinois. Over three days, officials and staff will be provided with an opportunity to not only learn from industry experts, but also exchange ideas and build relationships with their municipal colleagues.



Pictured above from top: Mike Pearce meets with IT professionals; a tree pruning demonstration led by the Morton Arboretum; a vendor’s display of mulch

Pictured to the left: Parks Department Nick Camardo, Jeff Parra, Mike Moorman, Peyton Potempa and Alec Wattawa at “Fire and Ice”

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT



Business Booming in the Village

Business is strong in Homer Glen with most of our available commercial spaces occupied.

Homer Glen welcomed six new businesses in the past few months, but due to a busy spring/summer schedule the Village was only able to do three ribbon cuttings—OneZo Boba Tea located at 14213 Bell Road; South Viet Vietnamese Cuisine located at 13025 W. 143rd Street; and Sultan Sweets located at 14205 Bell Road.

These businesses, as well as many others in the Village, have been and will continue to be affected by road expansion projects. The Village encourages residents to shop and dine local and to continue to frequent all of our businesses impacted by road construction projects.

Business Assistance

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

Grant Program

The Commercial Building Improvement Grant Program is still underway for new grant applicants. The program is available to commercial building owners, existing businesses and new businesses opening in Homer Glen. Projects eligible for assistance include improvements to commercial facades, signs, life-safety features, accessibility, utilities and more.

This is a reimbursement grant program of up to 50% of approved costs with a maximum grant award of \$5,000. Assistance for this program is available on a first-come first-served basis, based on funds availability. The Application Packet is available on the Village website under "Business Incentives".



Pictured clockwise from top: Boba Tea from OneZo Boba; ribbon cutting at South Viet; a bowl of Chicken Pho at South Viet

Welcome New Businesses

Beyond Acceptance

LGBTQIA+ Counseling Center: 14901 S. Founders Crossing

Just Nails

Nail Salon: 14324 S. Golden Oak Drive

Mindful Transitions

Mental Health Counseling: 15915 Crystal Creek Drive

My PC Dude

Computer Repair: 13161 W. 143rd Street

OneZo Boba Tea

Bubble Tea, Desserts, Ice Cream: 14213 S. Bell Road

South Viet

Vietnamese Cuisine: 13025 W. 143rd Street

Sultan Sweets

Mediterranean Sweet Shop: 14205 S. Bell Road

Coming Soon to Homer Glen!

Silk Fab

Silk Fabric Items Shop: 13005 W. 143rd Street



Above: Sultan Sweets Ribbon Cutting and a selection of treats



HOMER GLEN

Village Manager

Joe Baber
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Editor

Amy Blank
Communications Coordinator
ablank@homerglenil.org

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and

Instagram

@villageofhomerglen

VILLAGE FACILITIES

VILLAGE HALL

14240 W. 151st Street
708-301-0632

Administration Department:

M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Building Department:

M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS

14400 W. 151st Street
708-966-0059

HERITAGE PARK

14240 W. 151st Street
Located behind Village Hall

CULVER MEMORIAL PARK

14600 S. Parker Road

ERIN HILLS PARK

13725 S. Dublin Drive

EVLYN'S GATE NORTH PARK

16066 S. Syd Creek Drive

GLENVIEW WALK PARK

15603 James Lane

GOODINGS GROVE PARK

13900 S. Greystone Drive

GOREHAM PARK

14431 S. Pheasant Lane

KINGSTON HILLS PARK

14848 S. Carlton Lane

LAMERS PARK

12307 W. Lakeview Trail

SENDRA PARK

14727 S. Greenbrier Lane

STONEBRIDGE PARK

16000 S. Stonebridge Drive

SPORTS COMPLEX

14354 W. 151st Street

YANGAS PARK

12001 W. Venetian Way



See you
in December!