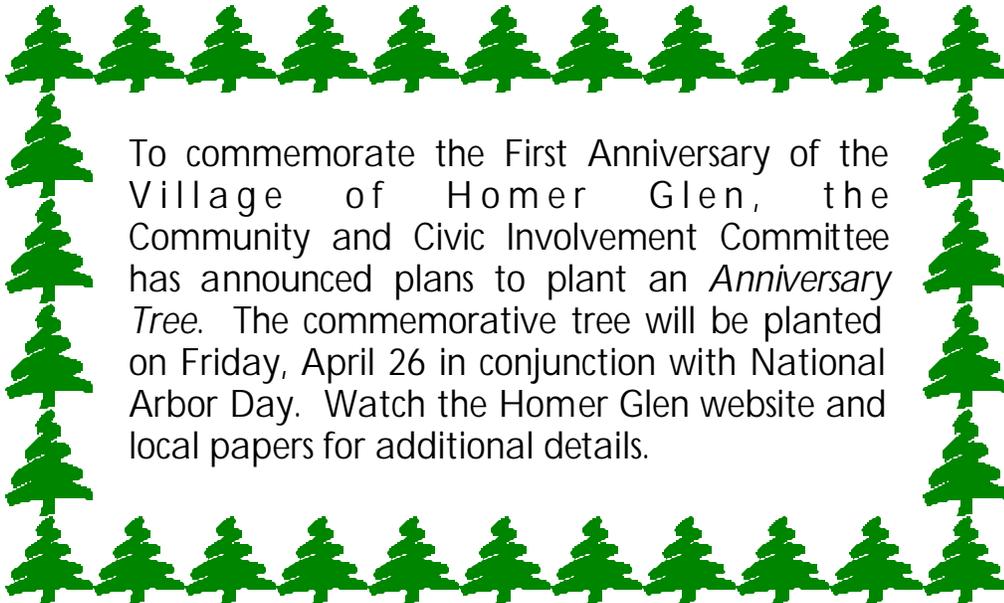


# Village of Homer Glen

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY, 2002



To commemorate the First Anniversary of the Village of Homer Glen, the Community and Civic Involvement Committee has announced plans to plant an *Anniversary Tree*. The commemorative tree will be planted on Friday, April 26 in conjunction with National Arbor Day. Watch the Homer Glen website and local papers for additional details.

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*Illinois Rep Renee Kosel at our Village Board meeting..*

Illinois Rep. Renee Kosel announced at the Village Board Meeting on February 19, 2002 that the Village would receive \$400,000 in Illinois First funds for land acquisition.



*Senator Maher and Mayor Petrizzo at our Village Workshop.*

Senator William Mahar, Jr. stopped by at our Workshop meeting on February 12, 2002 to present the Village with a grant for \$105,000 that will be used to purchase our first Village police vehicles.

We want *your* opinion! Please complete the Community Survey. See Page 4.

No Zip Code Change Until July, 2003 See Page 6

# Letter from the Mayor



Dear Homer Glen Residents,

Good things are happening in Homer Glen!

## Comprehensive Plan

We have officially begun the most important task on our agenda for this year – the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan. Although the work we will be doing is not the flashiest or grabs headlines, it is vitally important to the future of our community and involves the reason we exist as a village. We want to control future land use in Homer Glen. In part, this is done by having a Comprehensive Plan, which will guide growth and development over the next 10 to 15 years. We have set an ambitious goal of having the Comprehensive Plan completed and adopted by Thanksgiving.

As we prepare the Plan, we will be providing a number of opportunities for citizens to provide input using public workshops, focus groups, and open houses. We invite your participation when those sessions are scheduled.

Whether you can attend one of the public meetings or not, every resident of Homer Glen has an opportunity to provide input to the Comprehensive Plan. Please see the article on p. 4 as to how you can participate by completing the enclosed “Community Survey”.

## Homer Glen Receives Grants

We have received very good news! Illinois Senator William Mahar has announced the Village will receive a \$105,000 Illinois First grant to purchase three fully equipped squad cars. These vehicles will include on-board computer terminals. They should be available around the end of the year and will be marked with the Village’s name. The cars will be assigned either for use by the Will County Sheriff’s Police in Homer Glen or for the start of our own police department (more on this subject will be presented in our next newsletter in April).

Illinois Representative Renee Kosel has earmarked another Illinois First grant in the amount of \$400,000 for Homer Glen for the purposes of purchasing open space land and land for a future Village Hall. We will be studying locations for these land purchases as part of the comprehensive plan process.

When you see these State legislators, please add your thanks to our community’s appreciation for these grants.

The Village is also seeking grant funds to enhance the environmental life of Homer Glen. As this newsletter went to press, we learned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded a \$10,000 Wetlands Conservation grant for Homer Glen Marsh on Long Run Creek. This was a joint application with Homer Township for the improvement of a wetlands area south of the Erin Hills Subdivision. This 10 acre parcel that will be donated by Illinois-American Water Company (formerly Citizens Utilities) to Homer Township will be placed in the Homer Township Open Space Program. The developer of Erin Hills plans to donate 14 acres of his land to the Village. The grant will allow the Village and the Township to take the first steps to protect and restore wetland habitats on the combined acreage.

## Population Agreement with Will County

The Village and the County of Will have entered into an agreement which establishes the Village’s population as 22,269. When the 2000 Census was done, the U.S. Census Bureau did not credit Homer Glen with part of the population that is included in what are known as “split census blocks”. Some of the census blocks in Homer Township are split by the boundary lines of our new Village. As a result, some people in those “split census blocks” are in the Village limits of Homer Glen and some are outside of Homer Glen. Until the Census Bureau can determine which is which, the Village and the County agreed upon a number in order to facilitate the sharing of certain per capita taxes from the State of Illinois which are paid to both villages and counties. The Illinois Department of Revenue will accept the agreed-upon population for Homer Glen.

I am pleased to report the Village gained 2,176 people, which will increase Village revenues about \$245,000 per year. In addition, Will County agreed to give a credit to the Village of \$53,988 for the months of April and May 2001, which can be applied to the Village’s contract for police services from Will County.

Sincerely,

Russ Petrizzo  
Mayor

## Mrs. Illinois / Globe to Address Homer Glen Residents

Sheila Lamb-Gabler, Mrs. Illinois/Globe, has a simple yet important message, "Abuse to women or children is totally unacceptable." As a victim of domestic violence, she has first-hand knowledge of the destructive power of abuse. Gabler tells her own powerful story of overcoming an abusive relationship, a story that led to her crowning as Mrs. Illinois/Globe 2001 and spokesperson for Women In Need Foundation.

On Tuesday, March 5 residents will have the chance to hear her message. The Community & Civic Involvement Committee has arranged a Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Homer Junior High School, 15711 Bell Road. Residents are invited to meet Gabler, a Homer Glen resident, and hear her speak about her experiences as Mrs. Illinois/Globe. "This is an issue that affects everyone, whether they realize it or not." said Trustee Laurel Ward. "There are real costs associated with domestic violence--physical, emotional and financial. It is especially important for young ladies and their parents to recognize the pattern of abuse. I hope residents take this opportunity to learn more about abusive relationships."

Since winning her crown, Gabler has been raising awareness about domestic abuse. The Mrs. Illinois/Globe contest is sponsored by the Women In Need (WIN) Foundation. WIN's mission is to provide assistance and educational outreach programs for women and children in abusive situations.

According to WIN...

- 1 in 4 women suffer abuse at some time in her life.
- Battering is the single major cause of injury to women in the U.S. 20% of all hospital emergency visits are attributed to wife beating.
- Between 30% - 50% of female high school students report having already experienced teen dating violence.
- Approximately 1/3 of men counseled for battering are professional men who are well respected in their jobs and their communities.
- 70% of families where wife abuse occurs include the abuse of children.
- More children are served in women's shelters than women.

## Meet Your Officials

Village Manager  
**Glenn Spachman**



Glenn is one of the Village's 2-1/2 employees. He was hired in July, approximately three months after the incorporation of the Village as the Village's first full-time employee. As the Village Manager, he is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Village. He is enjoying sharing his experience and knowledge in helping our new Village get started.

Although Glenn is a resident of Roselle, his wife Sue claims he "lives" in Homer Glen. He comes to the Village with 24 years experience as a Village Manager and a total of 31 years of experience in local government. Previously, he served as the Village Manager/Administrator in Hillside, Roselle, Lyons and Schiller Park and was actually retired from Schiller Park when his name was brought to the attention of the Mayor and Village Board.

A Vietnam-era veteran, Glenn has a bachelor's degree from Knox College and a master's degree in governmental administration from the University of Pennsylvania. Both Glenn and Sue are Chicago area natives, having started their lives on the south side of Chicago. Sue is an elementary school teacher. They have two children: Bradley is a stage manager in Connecticut and Sara is a high school English teacher in Chicago.

After retiring and before starting with Homer Glen, Glenn was elected as a Commissioner for the Roselle Park District. He is also active with the Roselle Historical Foundation and the Rotary Club of Chicago-O'Hare.

### COMMUNITY SAFETY TIP

**CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES**—Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause death without warning. Carbon monoxide detectors can alert people to the presence of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide detectors have a limited life cycle and must be replaced. Check with manufacturer for details.

# Comprehensive Plan—Planning for the Future

Homer Glen has taken the initial steps in preparing the Village's first Comprehensive Plan. The Village has hired the professional firm of Trkla, Pettigrew, Allen, & Payne (TPAP) to develop the Comprehensive Plan. TPAP is a planning, design, and development consulting firm with extensive experience in comprehensive planning. Providing oversight and direction will be the members of the newly formed *Comprehensive Plan Committee* (see list of members below). Members of the committee represent a wide variety of viewpoints from the community including residents, township officials, school representatives, business organizations, civic groups, parks, recreation, and open space.

The Comprehensive Plan will provide a blueprint for Homer Glen's goals and objectives. According to TPAP, the Plan will cover land use, growth and development, movement of vehicles and pedestrians, the protection of open spaces and environmental resources, the provision of parks, schools, and other public facilities. It will address residential neighborhoods,

commercial areas, public and institutional lands, and public right-of-ways. It will establish guidelines by which the Plan Commission and Village Board can review and evaluate private development proposals. The Plan will also provide a guide for public improvements and can help ensure that local dollars are spent wisely and in a cost-effective manner.

## PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT

Public input is a vital component to the planning process. Community involvement and feedback will ensure a vision that is endorsed and supported by residents. Residents are asked to provide initial comments by completing and returning the Comprehensive Plan Survey (included in this newsletter). **Please remove the survey carefully.** Additional opportunities for community input will include interviews, focus groups, workshops and open houses.

Information about community outreach events as well as updates about the progress of the plan will be posted on the Homer Glen web-

site ([www.homerglen.org](http://www.homerglen.org)).

The development of Homer Glen's first Comprehensive Plan will be a challenging task. If properly crafted, the Plan can help preserve and protect important existing features and resources, coordinate new growth and development, and establish a strong and positive community image and identity. The final result will be a Comprehensive Plan and Land Use map establishing a framework for future development. "This is why we became a Village," said Mayor Russ Petrizzo. "So we could plan our own future."

If more than one person in your household would like to complete the Community Survey, please call the Village Office at (708) 301-0632 for another copy and we will mail one to you. Please do not copy the survey yourself; we will tabulate only those surveys returned on the special colored paper.

## Comprehensive Plan Committee

Steve Balich  
Laura Burke  
Marcia DeVivo  
Mike DeVivo  
Leonard Drnec  
Ed Ferrier  
John Hylton\*  
Bill Karn  
Rosemary Koning  
Marianne Kyle r  
Ken Lomasney  
Joe Mask a  
Debra Norvil  
Edward O'Brien

Thomas Petrou  
Michael Rusco  
Rich Schwartz  
Gail Snyder  
Brian Stevens  
Greg Stevens  
Rich Stringham #  
Dale Vogelsanger  
Evelyn Walano  
Chris Ward #  
William Young \*

\* Indicates joint appointment Homer 33C  
# Indicates joint appointment LTHS

## Bruce Road Bridge

Mark your calendars for an Open House meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2002 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Lockport Township High School, East Campus, Community Room.

This open house will provide information on a new proposed bridge across the Des Plaines River and access corridors from Bruce Road on the east to Caton Farm Road on the west, including a possible new arterial from Bruce Road to 159th Street in the vicinity of Cedar Road. Public input is being sought early in the study process.

Exhibits of the study will be available. Public input is welcome.

You can find more information and maps at [www.cfb-study.com](http://www.cfb-study.com).



# Clerk's Corner

By Christine Luttrell, Village Clerk

**The Following Referenda May Appear On Your March 19 Ballot.  
The Village Is Providing This As Public Information and Expresses No Opinion.**

For Further Information, Contact the Respective Unit of Government Or Their Website.

## Recent Ordinances That May Affect Residents

### **Ordinance No. 01-077 11/20/01**

An Ordinance Regulating Exterior Construction Standards for Residential and Commercial Structures (Within the Village of Homer Glen) - Requires masonry construction on the first floor on outside of a structure.

### **Ordinance No. 01-083 11/20/01**

An Ordinance Authorizing Northern Illinois Gas Company to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Gas Distributing System in and Through the Village of Homer Glen, (50-Year Franchise).

### **Ordinance No. 01-085 12/04/01**

Park Donation Ordinance for the Village of Homer Glen.

### **Ordinance No. 01-087 12/18/01**

An Ordinance Authorizing Commonwealth Edison Company to Use the Public Ways and Other Public Property in Conjunction with its Construction, Operation and Maintenance of an Electric System in and Through the Village of Homer Glen.

### **Ordinance No. 02-001 01/08/02**

An Ordinance Creating the Village of Homer Glen Comprehensive Plan Committee.

### **Ordinance No. 02-002 01/08/02**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Greater Will County Emergency Services Mutual Aid Association

### **Ordinance No. 02-004 02/05/02**

An Ordinance Adopting the Budget System and Appointing a Budget Officer

### **Ordinance No. 02-005 02/05/02**

An Ordinance Regulating Parking During Snow Removal Operations—prohibits parking on Village streets after a 2" snowfall for 12 hours or unless snow is plowed.

## **WILL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 92 REFERENDUM Proposition To Increase Maximum Annual Educational Fund Tax Rate**

*"Shall the maximum annual tax rate for educational purposes of Will County School District Number 92, Will County, Illinois, be increased and established at 2.00% upon all the taxable property of said School District at the value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, instead of 1.33% , the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended for said purposes?"*

Call (815) 838-8031

<http://iworkforeu.home.attbi.com>

## **HOMER TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REFERENDUM Proposition To Increase Corporate Purposes Tax Rate**

*"Shall the maximum allowable tax rate for the corporate fund of the Homer Township Fire Protection District, Will County, Illinois be increased from .030% to .040% of the value of all taxable property within the District as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue?"*

Call (708) 301-5010

[www.homerfire.org/taxreferendum.htm](http://www.homerfire.org/taxreferendum.htm)

## **HOMER SCHOOL DISTRICT 33C REFERENDUM Proposition To Increase Educational Tax Rate**

*"Shall the maximum annual tax rate for educational purposes of Homer Community Consolidated School District Number 33C, County of Will, State of Illinois, be increased and established at 2.40 percent on the full, fair cash value of taxable property as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue instead of 1.70 percent, the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended for said purpose?"*

Call (708) 301-3034

[www.homertalk.org](http://www.homertalk.org)

## **HOMER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT REFERENDUM 8 Cents for Space**

*"Shall the bonds of the Homer Township Public Library District, Will County, Illinois, in the amount of \$9,900,000 be issued for the purpose of renovating and expanding the existing library, and furnishing necessary equipment therefor and acquiring library materials and electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection therewith?"*

Call (708) 301-7908

[www.homerlibrary.org](http://www.homerlibrary.org)

# **ESDA Update— Homer Glen Joins Mutual Aid Association**

## ***MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

The Village of Homer Glen has joined the Greater Will County Emergency Services Mutual Aid Association. The agreement facilitates the rendering of mutual aid between member units in the event of certain emergencies and natural disasters.

Through membership in the mutual aid association, Homer Glen is eligible to receive aid in the form of equipment, personnel, or services from other members. Homer Glen may also respond to requests from other members for assistance. This agreement covers Homer Glen's Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA), which is a volunteer agency that assists in preparing for and responding to emergencies. The fire districts providing emergency services to Homer Glen are already covered by their own mutual aid agreements.

Many Homer Glen residents have indicated their willingness to serve on the Homer Glen ESDA. Coordinator, Mike Wolfe says more volunteers are needed. Volunteers will gain valuable experience and training. Beginning in March members will receive training in weather spotting and traffic direction.

ESDA members are volunteers willing to donate time to prepare for and respond to emergencies in Homer Glen, provide mutual aid to other communities, and assist in traffic and crowd control at pre-planned events. Being a member of ESDA can be a challenging experience, yet it is a fulfilling way to be active in the community. Individuals interested in volunteering should contact the Village Office.

## **Volunteer Help Wanted Newsletter Editor**

Homer Glen is looking for a dynamic, self-motivated individual to serve as the Volunteer Editor of the village newsletter. "The village newsletter is one of the most important tools we have for keeping residents informed," said Mayor Russ Petrizzo. "We don't have a large staff, so we need someone willing to donate their time to work on the newsletter."

The Homer Glen editor will work under the direction of the Village Manager overseeing production of the quarterly village newsletter. General responsibilities include selecting and preparing material for newsletter, soliciting

# **ZIP Code Updates**

***A HOMER GLEN ZIP CODE EXPECTED  
IN JULY, 2003***

According to the postmaster of Lockport, Homer Glen will not have its own ZIP code until at least July of 2003.

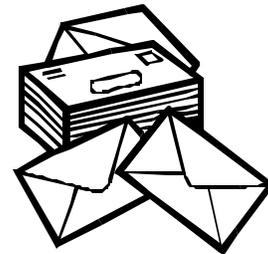
Residents who use a Lockport mail address can use "Homer Glen" when mailing letters because the Lockport Post Office now includes Homer Glen in Lockport's 60441 ZIP code.

However, a small portion of Homer Glen residents use Lemont, Orland Park, or Mokena in their address. The post office may want to survey these residents to determine if they want to change their address. These residents must continue to use their current mail address.

According to the post office, ZIP codes are only changed in July, and all the paperwork must be completed by the previous November.

The post office states that Homer Glen is getting its own ZIP code because the post office is running out of the "plus 4" numbers that identify individual addresses. There has been rapid growth in both Homer Glen, Homer Township and Lockport.

While there have been few problems using "Homer Glen" with the post office, there have been some difficulties reported with package delivery companies, such as FedEx or UPS because their computers do not recognize Homer Glen as a municipality. There have been instances where the package has been sent to downstate Homer. For this reason if you are in ZIP code 60441, it is best to use "Lockport, 60441" when using such services.



articles and photographs. The editor will work with the Office Manager to design page layouts, review proofs, and coordinate printing and distribution of final copy.

Individuals interested in helping their community by accepting this unpaid position should contact the Village Office at (708) 301-0632.

# Village of Homer Glen 2002 Meeting Calendar

Board of Trustees	Regular Meeting	1st & 3rd Tuesday	3:00 pm	Homer Junior High School
Board of Trustees	Workshop	2nd & 4th Tuesday	3:00 pm	Village Office
Community & Civic Involvement Committee		4th Monday	7:30 pm	Village Annex
Parks & Environment Committee		2nd & 4th Monday	7:00 pm	Village Office
Plan Commission		1st & 3rd Thursday	7:30 pm	Village Office
Zoning Commission		2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:30 pm	Village Office

## Meeting Locations

Village Office  
12115 W. 159th St  
Homer Glen, IL 60441  
(West of Will Cook Road by Ace Hardware)  
(708) 301-0632  
Fax (708) 301-8407

Village Annex  
12105 W. 159th St.

Homer Junior High School Cafeteria  
15711 S. Bell Road  
(Across from K-Mart)

## Election Calendar

February 19, 2002	Last day for voter registration or transfer of registration.
February 25, 2002	First day for in-person absentee voting at the Homer Township Office.  To have an absentee ballot mailed to you, call (815) 741-4632
March 18, 2002	Last day to vote absentee in person locally or in County Clerk's Office.
March 19, 2002	General Primary Election Day
March 21, 2002	Voter registration re-opens

**Village of Homer Glen  
Mission Statement**

*The Village of Homer Glen is committed to preserving, protecting, and enhancing our community's quality of life through responsible residential and economic development while utilizing sound fiscal management. We will strive to maintain open space, preserve our unique rural character, and safeguard our natural resources. The Village encourages community involvement in order to maintain and cultivate a balance of family, agriculture, business, environment, and cultural diversity for present and future generations.*

**Update**

**Logo Contest**

Thank you to all who submitted entries for the Homer Glen Logo Contest. A special thank you to Mrs. Hitzman at Hadley Middle School for sending entries from her sixth grade class. The Community and Civic Involvement Committee is reviewing the many fabulous entries. The final results will be announced in the next newsletter.

**Meetings with Homer Glen Officials**

Homer Glen Village officials would like to meet with residents to discuss issues and concerns. Arrangements will be made to meet with groups and subdivisions. If your group would like to arrange a meeting, please fill out the information below and send it to the Homer Glen Office.

Residents with specific concerns should contact the Village Office. Residents are always welcome to speak at Village Board meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision/Group \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Village of Homer Glen*

12115 W. 159th St.  
Homer Glen, IL 60441  
Phone: 708-301-0632  
Fax: 708-301-8407

**To the Homer Glen resident residing at:**

