



The Village

Messenger

“A Glimpse of the Glen”

Official Newsletter of the Village of Homer Glen

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Conservation is a process . . . begun and accomplished one step at a time!

Become proactive . . .

REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE



The Mayor’s Corner . . .

“Year in Review” by Mayor Jim Daley

“Preserving, Protecting and Planning” was the slogan for my Mayoral campaign. It continues to provide an appropriate framework for reviewing the Village’s accomplishments of 2007 and planning for continued success in 2008. It has guided us toward the completion of several projects and assisted in the creation of new initiatives that remain consistent with the core values established in the Village’s Green Vision and Comprehensive Plan. Following is a brief outline of some of these projects. I encourage residents to stay involved in their government. There are many opportunities for Volunteerism. Together we will continue to strive for an economically efficient and effective government.

(Continued on page 2)



Parks For Homer Glen

Russell Knaack, Trustee

Parks are like ice cream – they make everyone happy. That’s why I’m pleased to report that after nearly two-and-a-half years in the making, our Parks and Recreation Master Plan is now complete. Within its pages lie the vision for an unparalleled system of neighborhood parks, community parks, and much needed athletic fields.

Developers will be required

to provide ample high-quality land for neighborhood parks within new residential developments. As soon as our village attains Home-Rule status, we will also be able to require developers to pay for the equipment and improvements at these park sites. This is especially important since, without a park district or a municipal property tax, our park funds are very limited.

Unfortunately, the prospect for acquiring land for large community parks is not so

encouraging. We have no steady source of revenue to fund land acquisition and nearly all of the large farms in Homer Glen have already been purchased by developers. Time is really running out. Still, through resourcefulness and a strong commitment to action, I’m confident we can accomplish our vision without overburdening our residents. A copy of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is available on our website: www.homerglen.org



**MEET
YOUR
VILLAGE
STAFF**

BERNADETTE GREEN

Have you ever made a call to the Homer Glen Village Hall? If you have, then you are familiar with the pleasant voice on the other end of the phone, our Village Receptionist, Bernadette Green.

Bernadette started her career with the Village in 2003 as a temporary employee to a staff of three, soon thereafter becoming our full time front desk receptionist/account clerk performing varied duties on a daily basis as the "first contact" person for the Village Residents. She is always ready to help and has become a very well informed, contact for our village residents and valuable member of the Homer Glen Village Staff.

Having come to Homer Glen from California with a background in Finance, Bernadette has been able to not only fulfill the duties of receptionist, but also assists with the accounts payable process working closely with our Village Finance Director. In addition to those duties, Bernadette is a certified Notary Public and processes Voter Registrations as a service to the public. She knows who to go to for the answers and is willing to go above and beyond to help anyone coming through the front doors of the Village Hall with a friendly and professional manner.

Bernadette, the friendly voice of the Village of Homer Glen...someone you should know!

"Year in Review"

Mayor Jim Daley

(Continued from page 1)

**Preserving Our
Community Character**

* Amended the Zoning Ordinance and Conservation Design Ordinance and adopted a landmark Outdoor Lighting Ordinance to achieve vision outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and Green Vision.

* Stopped destruction of trees along BP pipeline easement and Nicor easement. Negotiated restoration plans and initiated new notification protocols.

* Joined Clean Air Counts Program and proclaimed Earth Day/Arbor Day to improve air quality and promote environmental awareness.

*Supported Forest Preserve District's effort to establish a new forest preserve and protect 270 acres of land along Fiddymont Creek while reserving easements for sewer extension for development along 159th street.

* Adopted several ordinances to preserve the character of our streetscape pertaining to signage, right-of-way development, utilities.

* Completed Long Run Creek Watershed Study-a detailed physical and biological survey of Long Run Creek that will aid in decisions for future development.

**Protecting Our
Residents**

* In an effort to reduce chronic flooding: awarded contracts for drainage projects in *Farmview* and *Woodbine* subdivisions.

* Authorized planning for flood control in *Oak Valley*, *Old Oak* and *Meadowview* Subdivisions;

* Initiated process for a Master-Stormwater Management Plan to provide for a Village-wide drainage plan;

* Adopted ordinance increase compensatory storage from 1.25 to 1.5 times the volume of storage lost.

* Completed road improvements to reduce traffic and improve safety. Added turn lanes on 151st Street at Homer Township Library and Sportsplex; added turn lanes and signals at 143rd and Parker and 143rd and Golden Oak.

* Improved safety protection during emergencies. Expanded Emergency Management Agency operations and adopted "Spiller Pays" ordinance to fund clean up of hazardous waste discharges.

* Continued actions to provide affordable drinking water. Contracted for representation to fight Illinois American rate increase request. Adopted resolution to study feasibility of acquiring water and sewer system.

* Adopted new adjudication process that provides enforcement and fee collection for violation of various property, parking and nuisance violations.

* Continued work with Police Task Force to investigate the feasibility of creating a Village police department.

* Amended Building & Fire code to improve life/safety protection. Established consistency across fire district which will assist in lowering insurance ratings.

Planning for the Future

* Adopted Master Transportation Plan and Master Parks and Recreation Plan to guide future development and improvements.

* Investigated reliable sources of revenue for the Village without adding a property tax including sales tax initiative, impact fees, special census, building and development review fees.

* Established the Veteran's Memorial Tollway Planning Consortium. A cooperative effort involving the Mayors and Managers of New Lenox, Lockport, Lemont and Homer Glen to provide regional planning and direction for transportation, land use, homeland security and economic development of the I-355 corridor.

* Promoted economic development along major commercial corridors including 159th Street; developed improvement plans to widen 159th Street; lobbied IDOT to fund roadway improvements; began negotiations with key property owners to annex prime commercial property; partnered with Orland Park, Tinley Park and others through Illinois Tomorrow Grant to study streetscape, economic analysis, and traffic on 159th Street.

* Approved IAW Facility Expansion on South Bell Road that will facilitate additional capacity for future growth especially along 159th Street. Plans include aesthetic and environmental improvements and a significant contribution for flood control in Oak Valley Subdivision.

* Created the Homer Glen Intergovernmental Planning Consortium providing a new opportunity for taxing districts in Homer Glen to work together on planning for the regions growth.

Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow . . .

Paula J. Wallrich, Village Manager

Whether you are a winter weather enthusiast or a 'snuggle by the fire' type, there is little that can be done to control Illinois weather and its propensity to drop 5" of snow during a Monday morning rush hour. Those of us that have grown up in these parts have acclimated to driving in the first winter storm and know how to get the driveway shoveled without breaking our backs. We have become accustomed to doing our daily routine despite the weather conditions. However, as Homer Glen continues to grow, the ability to navigate our streets safely has become an increasing issue for Mayor Daley and the Village Board.

The Village contracts with the Homer Township Road

District for the maintenance of the Village's road system, including snow plowing. Over the years, Mike DeVivo, Homer Glen Highway Road Commissioner, and his crew have had to 'battle' with parked cars in the roadway during a snow event. In the 'old days' they may have known the owner of the vehicle blocking the way of a snow plow, but as the township has grown, more and more cars are parked along the streets that inhibit Mike and his crew from getting the job done. This has presented some real life/safety issues for the Village. Streets have not been plowed due to the inability of navigating down the narrow streets. Therefore, the Mayor and Village Board amended the Ordinance regulating 'Parking During Snow Removal Oper-

ations' that prohibit the parking of vehicles on Village roads after a 2" accumulation of snow fall. Vehicles in violation of this ordinance will be ticketed, towed and fined. The minimum fine is \$100 and may be as high as \$250. The Village's goal is to keep the residents safe, not to collect fines. Mayor Jim Daley has met with the Road Commissioner and the Sheriff's Department to coordinate their efforts to notify residents, when possible, that their vehicles must be moved. Signs have been placed at the entrances of all subdivisions. Information is also posted on our website. We ask our residents to stay aware of the weather conditions and if the snow is accumulating, please, move your cars off the streets.



DID YOU KNOW??



One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year!!

It's Easy Being Green . . .

Don't forget 2008 is an intercalary "leap" year!
What are you going to do with your extra day?
Do something **green!**

- Take a walk- yes even in February! Bundle up and bring a bag to pick up litter along the way. Keep Homer Glen **Green!**
- Do a 'wasted energy' audit of your home. Unplug home electronics when not in use. Up to 75% of the electricity used to power small appliances is used while the appliance is turned off.
- Shovel your neighbors driveway! Besides it being the neighborly thing to do, you will burn 125 calories in 20 minutes and reduce snow blower emissions.
- RECYCLE! Take the day to clean out that closet, basement or garage. There are many charities looking for donations this time of year. Check out <http://www.freecycle.org>
- Do you know your ecological footprint? Take the quiz and start today to reduce your impact on the environment. <http://www.earthday.net/footprint>

**CONSERVATION IS REALLY ALL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP AND RESPECT
BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT....**



FYI . . .



Roadway lighting is one of the greatest sources of light pollution creating:

**Energy Waste, Glare and Excessive Light*

Join Homer Glen on March 29, 2008 for Lights Out America at 8:00 pm - turn your lights out for one hour!

Go to www.earthhour.org for more information. Become Pro-active - help save our environment!



How Does Homer Glen's Transportation Plan Affect You?

Chris Locacius, Trustee

Are you concerned about speeding vehicles in your neighborhood? Have you ever been stuck in a traffic jam? Are you worried about the congestion on our roadways or the amount of truck traffic in your neighborhood? Do you enjoy biking, walking, or horse back riding and wish there were more trails in our community? Are you concerned about air pollution? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then Homer Glens's Transportation Plan is of importance to you.

With the help of the Village's new Transportation Plan, Homer Glen will be able to provide a coordinated sustainable system of roadways, pedestrian facilities, recreational pathways, and public transportation service over the next ten years. The Transportation Plan will assist

in the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians while ensuring we remain a 'community and nature...in harmony'.

The Transportation Plan's objectives demonstrate how Homer Glen will address the communities' transportation concerns. Listed below are a few examples:

- Safety – the Plan evaluates the need for guardrails, street lighting, roadway profiles, and traffic calming measures that will improve safety on our streets.
- Congestion- the Plan identifies an integrated transportation and land use plan that minimizes congestion and investigates connectivity issues within residential neighborhoods.
- Countryside Character- the Plan promotes the Core Values of Homer Glen's 'Green Vision' by requiring wide, naturally landscaped corridors for major roadways.
- Trail System- the Plan develops a comprehensive network of multi-use trails and greenways to link residential subdivisions with schools, parks, shopping areas, public facilities, open spaces, forest preserves and other multi-use trails in the area.

For more information on the Transportation Plan, please visit our website at: www.homerglen.org.

HOMER GLEN PASSES LANDMARK OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE

Heather Parker, Administrative Assistant

A groundbreaking ordinance regulating outdoor lighting was passed by the Homer Glen Village Board at their Dec. 18 board meeting. The ordinance is the first in the Chicago area to take a comprehensive approach at reducing light pollution, conserving energy, protecting sensitive environmental areas, promoting public safety, and preventing nuisances to residents. It also sets clear and consistent standards for outdoor lighting on commercial developments. These standards are meant to prevent the "light wars" that often result when businesses compete for attention.

Everybody wins with this ordinance. Good lighting is not only environmentally responsible and attractive for our Village, but it also reduces the potential for accidents resulting from glare to motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Residential areas are minimally affected by the passage of this ordinance. They are required to comply with rules intended to reduce upward directed light as well as avoid nuisance complaints between neighbors. The Village hopes that officials from neighboring communities will take note of the ordinance, which met with accolades from the Homer Township Chamber of Commerce, and use it as an example of how to better their communities. For more information concerning the ordinance and light pollution, visit our website www.homerglen.org.

Homer Glen's Participation in the Long Run Creek Watershed Plan

Marcia DeVivo, Trustee



In the spring of 2006, the Village of Homer Glen received a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources C-2000 program to conduct a detailed physical and biological survey of Long Run Creek. The study reviewed historical data and profiled the physical character of the stream corridor noting stream biology, which is an indicator of water quality. The purpose of the study was to provide a baseline of data for Long Run Creek. This will allow for the continued monitoring of the health of the creek and provide in-

sight into successful watershed management practices. Long Run Creek, along with other natural amenities in our community reflect our natural resource protection practices. Just as 'we are what we eat', there is no cheating the system when it comes to the environment. Mother Nature reacts to our life style practices.

Long Run Creek's Watershed Plan and its recommendations will aid our community in making decisions about activities and future developments. We will also be able to access the impact of surrounding changes in the watershed.

Please remember – your actions affect natural resources. Become more

aware of our precious environment and learn about how you can use the plan to protect and enhance the watershed. The Village of Homer Glen encourages you to explore this informative plan by visiting:

www.homerglen.org.



Scientists monitoring the biological health of Long Run Creek



**I DIDN'T
KNOW
THAT!!**

*New energy efficient
light bulbs last
about three hours
a day for a year
(1056 hours) . . . THE
OLD LIGHT BULBS
ONLY BURN ABOUT
700-900 HOURS!!*

*SAVE THE EARTH . . .
RECYCLE YOUR LIGHT
BULBS . . .*

*Please remember the new
energy efficient light
bulbs contain mercury...
find a recycling center
near you...for more
information, go to
www.willcountylanduse.com*

Streamlining the Development Review Process

Lindley Ehler, Planner

The Village has taken a number of steps in the past months to improve our development review process. Whether an applicant is applying for a special use permit or proposing a new commercial development within the community, staff's goal is to aid applicants in understanding the process involved when submitting a development application. A flow chart outlining the basic steps of the pre-application process, the Plan Commission and Board processes, should alleviate the guess work of how many plans to submit, when to submit your application, plans, and fees, and what the next steps are once they are submitted.

As part of the development review process, application and fees need to be submitted during the pre-application process. The previous 22 page application, quite overwhelming, has now been reduced to a two-page application (and saved paper!). This application is much more concise and less time consuming for both applicants and staff.

If you want to view either the Development Review Process flowchart or application, both can now be found on our website at www.homerglen.org.

**Lamp
Recycle
.org**



DID YOU KNOW??



The U.S. is tenth in the world in per capita consumption of bottled water at just over 100 liters per year.

BYOB-

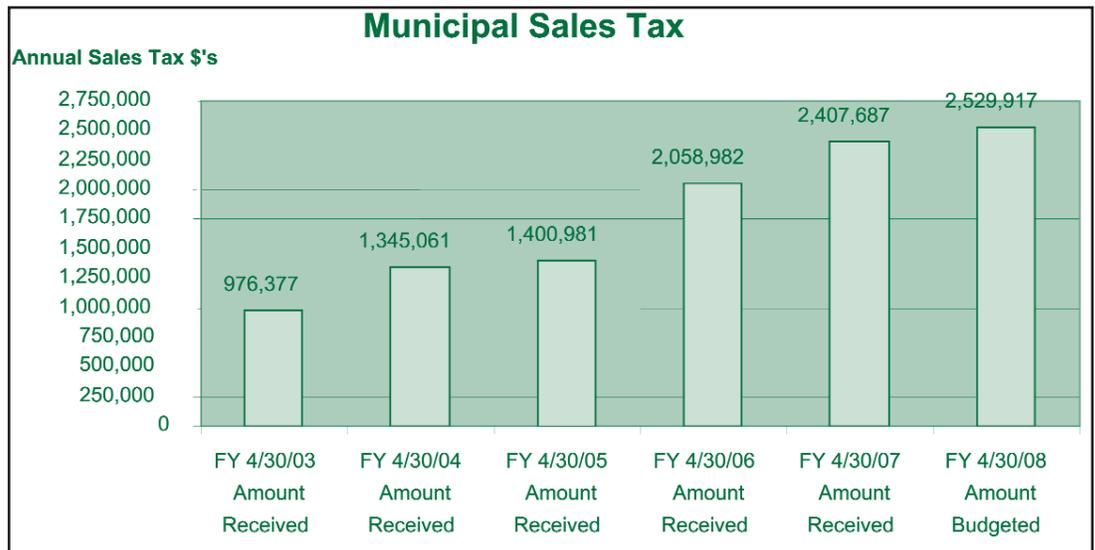
According to the Clean Air Counts, Americans throw away almost 2.5 million plastic bottles each hour! These bottles can leach chemicals into our soil and water supplies...HELP SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT...

Buy your own bottle...reuse your bottle wherever you go...!!!

The Importance of Shopping in Homer Glen

By John Sawyers, Finance Director

The single largest source of revenue for Homer Glen is sales tax. It represents approximately 27% of the total receipts for the Village. Combined with state income tax, they represent over 50% of the total revenue for the Village. Obviously, sales tax is a critical component to Homer Glen's economic health and plays a crucial role in accomplishing the Village's goals and objectives as outlined in the Village's Comprehensive Plan and Green Vision. Fortunately, Homer Glen's sales tax revenue has experienced significant growth over the past 5 years as illustrated in the table below. In order to continue this growth, the village has expanded its economic development efforts to increase sales tax producing businesses. Equally important is the need for Homer Glen residents to shop the merchants of Homer Glen. Shopping Homer Glen supports current businesses which attracts more businesses, thereby acting as one of the more important economic development tools for the Village.



How much of the sales tax does the village keep on a typical transaction?

The sales tax on the purchase of groceries or prescription drugs is 1.25%. The sales tax on all other purchases is 6.5%. The Village receives 1% of collected sales tax.

Does the village receive any sales tax from purchases outside the incorporated boundaries?

The village does not receive any sales tax on sales from unincorporated Homer Glen

merchants or other merchants outside the village boundaries.

Which merchants produce the most sales tax revenue for Homer Glen?

The Illinois Dept. of Revenue does not release sales tax amounts per merchant due to confidentiality laws. However, Illinois releases a list of top ten (in random order) sales tax contributors for the Village. The top ten merchants annually generate approximately \$1.8 million (over 70%) of all the village sales tax collected.

How many sales tax producing businesses are within the village incorporated boundaries?

According to the most recent Illinois Dept. of Revenue report, Homer Glen had 401 businesses collecting sales tax in the village.

If you would like more information pertaining to local government revenues go to the following Illinois Dept. of Revenue website:

<http://www.iltax.com/LocalGovernment/>

Make Clean Air Count with Energy Efficient Lighting in Your Home

What can save you more than \$8,000 over 30 years and also improve your ability to read at night? Energy-efficient lighting, of course.

By replacing standard bulbs with energy-efficient bulbs, you can save about \$78 a year, assuming a three-bulb purchase year. While the initial purchase of an energy-efficient bulb might result in a higher-than-average price, the savings incurred through their efficient use of energy and long operating life can offset the initial pinch of the item's cost.

To get the maximum cost benefit from these bulbs, they should be used in fixtures that are left on for

hours at a time – like outdoor lanterns or security floodlights, hallways, landings, or your most lived-in rooms. Benefits of energy-efficient lighting practices include:

- Reduced emissions of nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, and sulfur dioxide into the environment for better air quality
- Improve electricity system reliability
- Reduced electrical and cooling loads in buildings
- Lower electricity costs (roughly 10-15%)
- Lower maintenance costs
- More appropriate lighting levels

- Natural lighting is aesthetically pleasing

Find out how you can make Clean Air Count by visiting www.cleanaircounts.org. Make your home and/or community a leader at making our air cleaner, our quality of life better and our home climate more inviting.

Clean Air Counts is a six-county Chicago regional initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region V, City of Chicago and Illinois EPA. It seeks significant reductions in smog-forming pollutants and energy consumption.



SAVE THE
ENVIRONMENT

BECOME
AN
ADVOCATE
FOR
CLEAN AIR,
WATER

AND NATURE.....

Turn Your Engines Off—Village of Homer Glen Is An Anti Idling Zone

Starting this ozone season, April 1, 2008, Village of Homer Glen is doing our children and our community a favor by becoming a no-idling zone. What does that mean? It means that we are asking all drivers to turn their engines off rather than let their engines idle. Signs will be posted in places where we tend to forget to turn our cars off that will remind us to turn off our engines when we're not driving.



Idling seems harmless, but it isn't. According to the EPA in urbanized areas cars are the single largest contributor to ozone, which is harmful to our health. Did you know that an idling vehicle emits 20 times more pollution than one traveling 32 miles per hour or that idling a medium-duty gasoline vehicle for five minutes each day can emit as much as 30 pounds of harmful pollutants and 300 pounds of carbon dioxide in a year? The EPA estimates that air toxins emitted by vehicles account for half of all cancers attributed to outdoor sources of air pollution.

Idling cars, particularly near schools and parks can also compromise the air our children breathe. Diesel exhaust contains both very small particles and 40 chemicals that are classified as "hazardous air pollutants" under the Clean Air Act. Children's asthma symptoms increase as a result of car exhaust. Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15.

By making a conscious effort to reduce idling, we can reduce pollution by tens of thousands of pounds in our communities and protect our children from unhealthy air.



Smoke Free Homer Glen

Yelana Bowes, Assistant to Village Manager

Effective January 1, 2008, the Smoke Free Illinois Act prohibits smoking in all indoor workplaces and public places, including bars/taverns, restaurants, private clubs and casinos. Smoking is also prohibited within 15 feet of all entrances and exits, windows that open and ventilation intakes. Exceptions to

the act are retail tobacco stores, private residences, private vehicles, private/semi-private rooms in nursing homes or long term care facilities, and in no more than 25% of a hotel/motel's rooms.

If you are a proprietor/owner/manager,

all ashtrays must be removed and signs (no smaller than 5"x7") must be posted clearly stating smoking is prohibited. Signs must be displayed at all public and employee entrances. For a temporary no-smoking sign, please stop by Village Hall or download and print signs at www.smokefree.illinois.gov.



Construction Contractor Tips

By Steve Wydeveld, Chief Building Official

Increased complaints received by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General demonstrate that unscrupulous home repair contractors use some common techniques to gain the confidence of home owners.

Unscrupulous contractors might tell you they have "leftovers" from a larger job and can do the repair work for you at a discount. They might attempt to frighten you by claiming that your house contains health hazards or code violations that must be fixed right away. They might claim to be a representative of your insurance company in an attempt to get you to agree to work they say your insurance policy will pay

for. Before you hire a contractor for new construction, home remodeling or any other work, please follow the Village of Homer Glen's contractor tips:

1. Obtain recommendations from friends and neighbors, contact the Illinois Attorney General's office or the Better Business Bureau.
2. Ask the contractor if the company is insured against claims covering workers compensation, property damage and general liability. Make sure the contractor is registered in Homer Glen!
3. All estimates should be in writing. Plans and specifications need to be detailed and easy to read. A

written contract should be required that specifies all work to be done and include a completion date (we recommend consulting with an attorney).

4. Be sure to see the building permit prior to the start of the work. Post the permit in a conspicuous location until the work is completed and inspected by the Village.

If you have any questions you may contact the Homer Glen Building Department at 708-301-1301 or the Illinois Attorney Generals Office at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/

Printed On Recycled Paper

Please remember to recycle!

To the Homer Glen Resident at:

Village of Homer Glen
Mayor Jim Daley
Clerk Gale Skroboton

Trustees
 Marcia Devivo
 Russell Knaack
 Christopher Locacius
 Mary Niemiec
 Margaret Sabo
 Laurel Ward

Village Board Meets
 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
 Plan Commission Meets
 1st & 3rd Monday of the Month
 Please refer to our Website for weekly updates regarding meeting times and agendas
www.homerglen.org

14933 S. Founders Crossing • Homer Glen, IL 60491

Community and Nature ... in Harmony



PRSRSTD STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 LOCKPORT, IL
 PERMIT NO. 83