



Messenger

“A Glimpse of the Glen”

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The Mayor's Corner . . .

A Full Plate by Mayor Jim Daley

A full plate...Isn't that what we all hope for during the holidays? Hopefully your holidays will represent a 'full plate' of family, friends and good food. Here at the Village our 'full plate' includes the many projects the Village Board, staff and volunteers are currently working on. We are grateful for the opportunities these projects provide in helping develop a premier community for the south suburbs.

However, our 'full plate' also includes some challenges for the village. The overcrowding of Lockport Township High School and the issues related to Illinois American Water, are two critical issues that have been on our 'plate' for some time and the solutions, unfortunately, will not be immediate. Long term solutions will only come through thoughtful review and continued public input to find the best results for our community.

Lockport Township High School
The overcrowding of Lockport Township High School is one of my greatest concerns. Last August, Mayor Trivedi of Lockport hosted an informational meeting on this issue. Representatives from Lockport, Homer Glen, Crest Hill and the School District were in attendance. As a consequence of that meeting, it was decided that a series of summits would be held in each community to provide the public

an opportunity to comment on the overcrowding issue and the prior failed referenda to build a new school. The first summit was hosted by Mayor Soliman in Crest Hill on November 19. Homer Glen will host the second summit on February 11, 2010. Lockport will then hold a third summit sometime later that spring. The Mayors of the three communities have committed to working together with the School District to provide the best educational opportunities while maintaining a safe environment for our children while protecting the interests of the taxpayers.

Illinois American Water A second issue facing the village concerns Illinois American Water. I wish to thank those residents who attended our public forum on October 19th. There were over 350 people that gave personal testimony on the recent rate request by Illinois American Water. The rate increase, the purchase of the Bedford Transmission line and the purchase of the Homer Glen sewer and water system are all critical issues impacting the quality of life and the future growth of our community. Please read the article by our Village Manager in this newsletter concerning the Village's plans to solve this major problem facing our village today.

During my administration the

Village has undertaken three new initiatives as part of an economic stimulus program. The Village is planning for the extension of a sanitary sewer along Fiddymont Creek, investigating the purchase of land for a community park, and assessing the need for a new Village Hall.

Fiddymont Creek Sewer Extension The first initiative on the Village's 'plate' is the sewer extension between Cedar and Gougar Roads. Phase I engineering is nearing completion which will provide a recommended alignment for the sewer line. A public meeting will be held this winter to present the proposed alignment of the sewer and trail system to the public. The proposed trail will align in conjunction with the sewer easement where possible and will provide a link between Village and Township trails and the future I-355 multi-use trail.

After public comments are received, the final alignment will be approved by both the Forest Preserve District and the Village. The Village will then proceed with Phase II engineering to complete construction plans and cost estimates. Phase II is expected to be concluded by the summer of 2010.

The sewer extension project will position the Village for commercial development along the 159th street corridor. Without



the Village's involvement, the sewer would most likely not be constructed, thus limiting the development potential and the quality level of development within this area. Similar to the efforts of the Village of New Lenox, we need to plan for the infrastructure in this area to recruit business to our community. Without this, development will 'move on down the road' to sites that are infrastructure ready for development.

Land Acquisition As this newsletter goes to press, the Village is completing the due diligence on the purchase of the Corso property, commonly known as the Dunn Farm, for purposes of a community park. The property is located on the south side of 159th street and is comprised of 98 acres. Although I do not support the purchase of this particular property, I believe it is important to investigate opportunities for active recreation uses. On November 16th, a public forum was held to present information on the land acquisition proposal for a community park. Approximately 400 residents attended the forum to express their opinion regarding the proposed purchase. It is apparent from the comments received at the forum that the Vil-

lage needs to make sure this issue is thoroughly studied and evaluated. To that end, I have requested updated appraisals as well as an evaluative study of all sites under consideration. The Board will continue to meet and discuss this issue. In addition, the recreational needs of our community will be revisited so that we can accurately evaluate the properties. I encourage the public to stay actively involved and attend our meetings to monitor this process.

The purchase of land for a community park will require the issuance of a bond and similar to the sewer extension project, the Village will use the 1% sales tax revenue to pay back the bond. The issuance of a bond is an important decision for the leadership of the village and one that has not been taken lightly. As one of the very few villages that currently has no debt, we have been very conservative in our decision making which is very prudent in this current economic climate. The bonds that will be issued are General Obligation Bonds which are backed by the promise to levy a property tax if repayment is not made. In conversations with our residents this has been the subject of great concern

and debate. The Village of Homer Glen does not have a municipal property tax and there is no desire to create one. This was one of the basic tenets of incorporation and one that I feel very strongly about. Our financial analysis has projected very conservative estimates that indicate our 1% sales tax revenue is adequate to fund these projects.

Village Hall This last initiative is still in the planning stages. Currently the Village pays over \$22,000/month for the lease of approximately 9,000 square feet. We will continue to investigate alternate options that might include the purchase of our existing facility or the construction/remodeling of a new facility. As with the other issues, this will be discussed further with the Board at future public meetings.

As we continue to work through these issues we appreciate the support of the community and welcome your comments. Our Board meetings are televised and our website maintains minutes of the meetings. We encourage your attendance at our committee or board meetings.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Getting Control of the Rising Cost of Sewer & Water *By Paula J. Wallrich, Village Manager*

From the very beginning Homer Glen has worked toward independence and local control. The incorporation of Homer Glen in 2001 was a consequence of the community's desire to protect its boundaries and preserve its quality of life. Incorporation provided the opportunity for the village to operate as a municipality independent of County rule or eliminate the threat of annexation to adjacent communities. In 2008 the Village of Homer Glen achieved Home Rule status thus increasing its ability to self govern. As a home rule community, Homer Glen can now exert local control over many of the issues facing municipalities today. Issues such as requiring new development to pay for its impact on the community rather than burden existing development; the ability to shift local tax burdens to non-residents through sales and use taxes; the prevention of community blight and the creation of community development programs. The incorporation of the village and the creation of home rule authority are both legal tools that assist the Village in controlling its destiny.

Homer Glen also faces another issue threatening local control- the provision of sewer and water. Illinois American Water (IAW) currently provides these services to the residents of Homer Glen. Since IAW purchased the system from Citizen Utilities, Homer Glen customers have experienced continued rate increases, customer service deficiencies and questionable billing practices. The Village has intervened in several rate cases in opposition to these issues; the most recent being ICC docket 09-0319 rate case. This case involves a water rate increase request of 29% and a sewer rate increase of over 50%.

In an effort to provide greater opportunities for our residents to voice their concerns regarding rate case 09-0319, State Representative Renee Kosel requested the Illinois Commerce Commission hold a local public forum on the IAW filing. On October 19th, over 350 Illinois American customers attended the public forum at the Homer Jr. High School. Public officials joined residents in voicing their opposition to what appears to be an endless stream of cost increases for one of life's basic necessities. The evening began with Mayor Daley sending a strong message to IAW officials that the Village will be aggressive in its efforts to provide sewer and water at fair rates for its residents including the purchase of the utility system.

Sewer and Water Task Force members continued the message with an analysis of rate history and rate comparisons with adjacent communities. Exhibits were provided illustrating the excessively high rates charged to Homer Glen residents in comparison to neighboring communities. Trustee Mary Niemiec concluded the Village portion of the hearing by questioning the role of the Illinois Commerce Commission in protecting the interests of the residents and testifying on the negative impact the rates have on economic development for the Village. Testimony continued with comments from the Homer Fire District who took exception with the exaction of a "Fire Protection Fee" and several residents provided passionate commentary on the personal hardships current and proposed rates have on their quality of life.

As part of the rate case the Village of Homer Glen and twelve other communities have joined forces with the Attorney General in the hiring of an expert witness. The Attorney General has focused on investigating IAW's cost accounting data filings. The hearing is scheduled for December 8-11 in Springfield. The Village's website will continue to provide current information on this case.

In addition to the opposition of rate increases, the Village continues to investigate the purchase of the Bedford Transmission line and the purchase of the utility system serving Homer Glen. Several communities including Bolingbrook, Plainfield, Woodridge and Romeoville are working together on the appraisal studies to purchase the transmission line. The Village is also pursuing its own study for the acquisition of the local system.

In summary, the Village has a 3-prong approach toward securing local control over the provision of sewer and water to its residents. First, continue the opposition to rate requests before the ICC; second, purchase the Bedford Transmission line which is the conveyance system for Lake Michigan water from Bedford Park to our community and third, acquire the sewer and water infrastructure that services residents within the Village. The Village will continue its aggressive stance on all three fronts. Residents are encouraged to stay involved. The Sewer and Water Task Force meets monthly; check the Village's website for further information. Residents wishing to file complaints related to the rate increase can refer to the Village website for links to the ICC website.



Get to know your Village Trustees

Trustee Mary Niemiec

Mary Niemiec has been a resident in the Homer area since 1986. She resides in Homer Glen with her husband, Terry and daughter, Lauren. Mary was actively involved in the incorporation of Homer Glen - appointed to the first Village Board as Trustee at its incorporation in April 2001 and elected to that

office in 2003. She was re-elected in 2005 and 2009. She currently co-chairs the Community and Economic Development Committee and serves as chairman for the Village's Sewer & Water Task Force. Previously, Mary chaired the Public Safety Committee and search committees for both the Village Manager and Community Development Director.

Mary has worked in the non-profit and public sectors for over twenty-five years in various administrative positions. She holds a Masters in Public Administration and a Bachelors of Science in Social Work. She is also involved as a civic volunteer, currently Vice President and member of the Board of Directors for the Homer Glen Foundation, a non-profit foundation supporting community initiatives.

Mary was asked the following questions regarding her role as Village Trustee:

1. *What has been your most challenging issue as trustee?*

Two key challenges stand out – our overcrowded high school and the high cost of water and sewer. Both issues must be resolved in the very near future. They impact our quality of life, our children's future, the value of our property and our ability to grow as a community. The Village of Homer Glen must be actively engaged in finding a solution for both of these issues.

2. *What has been your most rewarding?*

The fact that we have a balanced budget and continue to operate the village without a property tax to support municipal services is most rewarding. We are one of a handful of communities that do not assess a municipal property tax. The strategy when we incorporated was to utilize the services as we need them and to contract out for efficiency. That has proven to be a successful model for Homer Glen.

3. *What are your hopes for Homer Glen in 10 years?*

My hope is that Homer Glen will be known as a community where people want to raise their kids, live by their kids/grandkids and locate their businesses.

2010 Census: It's In Our Hands



Heather Parker, Administrative Assistant

The Village of Homer Glen has joined forces with the 2010 U.S. Census Committee to ensure that everyone is counted during the federal census. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. This census is a count of everyone residing in the United States, both citizens and non-citizens.

Every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on data collected during the census. Approximately 35% of the Village's total revenue is calculated based on the population count from the census. Revenue from income tax, motor fuel tax and use tax is received on a per capita basis. An accurate count of our population ensures the Village gets its fair share of state and federal funding. As a community that does not levy a municipal property tax, this revenue source is critically important to maintain municipal services, such as road maintenance, public safety and public parks.

Data collected from the Census is also used for economic development purposes. It is used to help attract business to our community and guide local decision makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build roads, hospitals, and schools. Demographic studies resulting from the Census also provide the basis for disaster relief funding and political representation at the state and federal level.

The census questionnaire will be mailed in March of 2010 and asks a few simple questions of each person - name, relationship, gender, age, date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. It's quick, simple and only takes a few minutes to complete and return by mail.

Information about respondents and their households is confidential. The census does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years.

If you are interested in helping to educate Homer Glen residents about the census, contact Heather Parker at hparker@homerghen.org to get involved with the Village's Complete Count Committee.

Homer Lands Day Celebrates 8th Anniversary

By Yelana Bowes, Office Manager



On a rainy, windy October day, Mayor Jim Daley, Village Board members, Homer Township officials, Village residents and members of the Village Environment committee commemorated Homer Glen Lands Day in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. A Kentucky coffee tree donated by Village Arborist, Roger Ross and his wife, Diane, was planted at Sendra Park in Homer Glen. The tree was dug up and transplanted to its new location by Rick Gomez of Instant Shade Transplanting, Inc.

Village Trustee and Chairperson of the Village Environment committee, Margaret Sabo, gave a brief explanation of the significance of the National Public Lands Day and the importance of recognizing and protecting areas in our natural environment. The Environment Committee has planted trees for 7 years at such places as Northwest Fire Station, Hadley School, Founders Senior area, Homer Healing Garden, and Yangas Park.

Trustee Sabo thanked Roger Ross for his generous donation of the tree for this year's planting and recognized members of the Environment committee for their continued dedication and efforts to the betterment of our environment.

Mr. Ross gave a brief description of the five year old tree and its significance to our environment, stating that the tree was started from the seed of another Kentucky Coffee Tree on his property and had grown to its present height of 18 feet up until its placement at the new location at Senda Park.

Speeches by Mayor Daley, Chamber of Commerce member, Bob Schmidt and acceptance of the tree by Homer Township Supervisor Pam Meyers, completed the Lands Day commemoration activities.





FYI...

Renee Kosel



State

Representative

Springfield (217) 782-0424
Mokena (708) 479-4200

Homer Glen Office Hours:

First Tuesday of each month
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Homer Glen Village Hall
Council Chamber
14917 S. Founders Crossing
(east side of Village Hall)

E-mail: rkosel@aol.com

I or a representative from my office will be on hand to discuss any legislative concerns or issues you may have

**Working to Serve
You Better**

Homer Harvest Days

A Memorable Community Event

This year, not only did the weather cooperate, but the success of the Homer Harvest Days festival was overwhelming with an estimated 5,000 visitors attending this year's inaugural two day event.

Guests were treated to the rural heritage of the community and enjoyed an array of activities and entertainment. Educational demonstrations including butter churning, candle making, quilting, weaving and even demonstrations by a blacksmith helped bring the flavor of the past to reality.

Children enjoyed real "farm" entertainment such as hayrides, pioneer games, pony rides, sheep shearing and a petting zoo. A children's museum exhibit and craft making added a special interest to the day with a hands -on butterfly garden.

Music and dancing were a welcoming highlight of this year's event including Cajun band entertainment, a barbershop quartet, square dancers, performance by the "Dance Studio" a string band and even a play along string band. An old fashioned magic show and the ever popular "talent show rounded out the entertainment portion of the event.

There was plenty of good old fashioned "vittles" to whet the appetite including all American hot dogs, chicken on a stick, bratwurst, fresh sweet corn, curly fries, nachos, elephant ears, funnel cakes, lemon shakes and the always popular "homemade cotton candy".

Homer Harvest Days was a wonderful way to draw the community together to celebrate our heritage and good old fashioned family fun. As a joint effort with Homer Township, the event was an intergovernmental effort that included a committee of seven and a volunteer staff of over 65.

Plans to continue this as an annual event is a goal of the committee. A large event such as this requires hours of planning and preparation involving many volunteer s. If you would like to assist in the planning for this event, please contact the Village to express your interests..

Many thanks to the planning committee, Cathy Boo, Mike Costa, Randy Juras, Russell Knaack, Margaret Sabo, Gail Synder, and Nancy Strack, the volunteers and the event sponsors including, Bach Ricci, Ltd, BI Rental, Carolyn Hartnett-Edward Jones, Chicago Shuttle Quartet, Circle Tractor Co., Gas City, Great American Pizza, Home Depot, Illinois American Water, KidsWork Children's Museum, Konow Farm, Kula & Sons Construction, Inc., Kurts German Autowerks, Midland Federal Savings, Neat Freaks Office Cleaning, Nick's Barbeque, NuWay Disposal, Odelson & Sterk Pampered Chef, Revell's Recycling, Inc, Silver Cross Hospital, Usborne Books -Kathleen White, and More, and the Costa Family, the Sabo Family and the Snyder Family.





Stars and Stargazers Sparkle at the Trantina Farm

Starry nights filled the sky for the third stargazing event this year at the Trantina Farm on Saturday, October 10th! The weather did not cooperate on Friday, October 9th, but there were plenty of stars to see on Saturday. Approximately 150 children and adults turned out on a very cold night to see Jupiter and its four larger moons, the Ring Nebula, binary stars, other galaxies, and many more deep sky objects. The Kankakee Area Stargazers provided four large telescopes and one pair of high powered binoculars for resident viewing. The lines at one point were 25+ deep at each of the telescopes.

Stargazing visitors to the event were given information about participating in the Great World Wide Star Count using the constellation Cygnus, the Swan, for reference. As part of the Galilean Nights International Year of Astronomy (IYA) Cornerstone Project, everyone had the opportunity to view Jupiter and its moons and then map the moons on paper, just as Galileo did 400 years ago. The moons of Jupiter that were visible on Saturday night were Calisto, Ganymede, Europa, and Io.

The Homer Glen Environment Committee wishes to extend its appreciation to Homer Township for the use of the Trantina Farm, to The Kankakee Area Stargazers for the use of their telescopes and guidance, and to Cub Scout Pack 66662 Bear Den in Homer Glen and Lori Spizzirri, den leader, for their assistance on Saturday night.

Additional stargazing events are being planned for April and October of next year. Look for more information on future events in 2010 at www.homerglen.org



Eliminating Drainage problems...it takes a Village!

By Michael Salamowicz

With the Fall rain season upon us many of those old drainage problems may seem to have reappeared. There are several things homeowners can do to help reduce or even eliminate drainage problems for themselves and their neighbors.. First and foremost homeowners should be aware of any drainage and utility easements located on their property and avoid any construction within these easements. This includes the construction of sheds, garages or any other structures as well as landscape walls, raised planting areas or berms. The planting of trees or other plants is acceptable within drainage easements as long as there are no changes made to the original ground elevation. It is important to make sure the plants will not interfere with storm water drainage flows. It is recommended to keep the location of downspouts and sump pump discharge at least two feet from the foundation of the structure being drained or any adjacent property line and perpendicular to any adjacent property line and/or along the flow line of the drainage easement. Fencing constructed within or across drainage easements must either be of a flow-through design or be raised sufficiently to allow proper flow under the fence. To help reduce flooding of the streets, adjacent parkways and back yards where drainage facilities are present, homeowners can help by removing leaves and other debris from the storm drain grates. If any homeowner is interested in constructing a project but is unsure of its impact on drainageways, please feel free to contact the Village. Staff is here to assist in the review of your project and answer any questions you may have before you begin.



**MEET
YOUR
VILLAGE
STAFF**

Erin Venard

Erin Venard, Development Services Administrative Assistant, began working for the Village in early 2008 as an administrative intern working closely with the Village Planner. Erin's work ethic and quick learning capacity helped fill a void in the Planning Department and was hired to her full time position working with the Director of Development Services in the fall. Erin provides assistance to both Development Services and the Planning and Zoning department, also providing staff support for the Planning Commission.

Erin's impressive credentials have helped her understand the needs of her position. Erin completed her undergraduate degree in Political Science and obtained her Master's Degree in Public Service Management from DePaul University. She is currently enrolled in a GIS certification program at College of DuPage which has helped her provide valuable GIS capabilities for the Planning and Zoning department, along with Development Services integration.

In the short time Erin has been a member of the Village staff, she has engaged in several planning projects putting together information for Plan commission packets and providing valuable assistance to both the Community Development Director and the Village staff.

When Erin is not engaged in mapping a new plat for a village meeting, or meeting with staff members or residents providing insight into the planning and zoning requirements, she enjoys spending time with her brothers and parents, weekend reading, baking, and teaching group fitness classes in her spare time. As a great fitness role model, Erin has even engaged staff in fitness training by leading a fitness demonstration as part of our quarterly staff "lunch and learn" sessions.

In just the brief span of a year, Erin has become a stable and valuable member of the Village staff "team", we are very fortunate she decided to pursue her career in Homer Glen.

*Save The
Date*

**2010 EARTH ARBOR DAY
KONOW FARM - SATURDAY, MAY 22**

*Save The
Date*

Meet Your Village Webmaster

Christine Luttrell

Chris Luttrell, one of the Village's past recipients of 'Volunteer of the Year', exemplifies what it truly means to be a volunteer. Chris has donated her time and talents to Village since the early days of incorporation. She has served on several Village committees, including the Communications and Civic Involvement Committee, the Town Center Task Force and countless projects for the Village.

Chris served as Village Clerk from 2001 to 2004. As the Village's first Clerk, Chris was responsible for establishing many of the Village's protocols for record keeping that continue to serve the Village today. The Village benefitted greatly from her excellent organizational skills and attention to detail. "I enjoyed the challenge of being the Village Clerk, setting up and maintaining village records and I cherish those memories", commented Chris.

Chris's contribution to the Village didn't stop there. After resigning as Village Clerk, Chris volunteered to maintain the village website. "I wanted to assist our village without taking time away from my business and maintaining the website was a perfect fit for me. I love details and keeping things organized. I also enjoy making information readily available to our residents, something that is very important to me," states Chris. Chris donates countless hours maintaining the wealth of information on the Village's website at a substantial savings to the Village. She has been known to work into the late midnight hours ensuring the latest information is posted to the website; this is all after a full day's work at her own business.

Chris and her husband, Ray, moved to Homer Glen in 1987. They now have five grown children, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. She and her husband have owned and managed a family business that produces graphics and printing plates for packaging for over thirty years. Accounting is her specialty; however, Chris enjoys all aspects of organizing and running a business. "It has afforded me the opportunity to learn a wide variety of computer applications, some programming skills, and the basics of graphic design" states Chris. Those skills have proven quite helpful as the Village webmaster.

Chris recently joined the Community and Economic Development Committee where she has contributed her many talents in assisting with the formation of the new "Business Connect" website, a link to the Village's website that focuses on economic development. The Village is very fortunate to have residents such as Chris, willing to give their time and talent for the betterment of the community.



The Homer Glen Village Board has adopted an official "Shop Homer Glen" logo recommended by the Community & Economic Development (CED) Committee. Trustee Laurel Ward, who co-chairs the Committee, stated, "We wanted a fun and exciting logo that would attract attention and reinforce the message that shopping Homer Glen is a wise investment."

The logo was created by the CED with the assistance of Homer Glen residents Kirk Middleton and Bob Webster from VerseOne, a Homer Glen business. The adoption of the logo is part of a campaign to educate and encourage residents to Invest Wisely and Shop Homer Glen. Trustee Mary Niemiec, who also co-chairs the CED Committee explains, "Residents will see a return on the money they spend in Homer Glen. We have identified important benefits to shopping locally."

A list of those benefits can be viewed on the village website. Homer Glen businesses may also download pdf's of the Shop Homer Glen logo for use in their marketing efforts.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

BAM Tile, Inc. 15753 S. Bell Road

Orient Cafe 14108 S. Bell Road

Porter's Pizza 13001 W. 143rd Street

Wise Buys Resale 14205 S. Bell Road

Community and Nature in Harmony 2009 Award Winners



Front Row L to R: Judith Adams; Jane Chen; Chee Chen; Dianne Ross; Patricia Hadis, Aris Salon and Organics; Trustee Margaret Sabo
Middle Row L to R: Tanya Guntermann-Eaker; Cathe Byers, Founders Club; Kenneth Adams; Ken Plecki, Kankakee Area Star Gazers; Mike McCarville, Kankakee Area Star Gazers; Nancy Haslinger; Brian Haslinger
Back Row L to R: Trustee Laurel Ward; Drew Carhart, NAA



Front Row L to R: Michael Philbrick; Lee Osterkorn; Ben Cryer; Kevin Giroux; Matt Hinchley
Middle Row L to R: Trustee Laurel Ward; Zach Sowatzke; John Ficek; Richard Feifar; Jacob Jagodzinski; Roscoe Rea; Paul Gaudio; Trustee Margaret Sabo
Back Row L to R: Joe Burnitz; Emrys Tennesen; Frank Gonzales



Front Row L to R: Nick Lindblad; Michael King; Renee King; Daniel White; Stephen White; Raymond Pustelnik
Back Row L to R: Trustee Laurel Ward; Cubmaster John Szpicki; Trustee Margaret Sabo



Front Row L to R: Timmy Behland, Benjamin Belczak, Silas Rea, Brandon Sadowski (holding certificate), Jack Mitchell, Bret Miller and Danny Canning
Back Row L to R: Trustee Laurel Ward; Cubmaster Stan Rea; Trustee Margaret Sabo

Community Development Department

Edmond Cage, AICP

Community Development Director



Ordinance Update

As a young community, it is important that our ordinances reflect the high standards and goals established in our planning documents. Upon incorporation, the Village adopted many of the Will County ordinances (zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, building codes). Over the years the ordinances have been revised in an effort to conform to the unique characteristics and local needs of our community. The Community Development Department is working to finalize many of these revisions. One ordinance currently under review is the sign ordinance. The existing sign ordinance was adapted from the Will County ordinance and therefore reflects a broader range of regulations. The proposed revisions will reflect the quality standards of the village and relate more accurately to the goals and vision statements of the village. Village staff will also work with Homer Township Chamber members and local business owners in reviewing the revisions prior to final adoption.

Another ordinance under review is an update to the existing outdoor lighting ordinance. The changes are intended to refine this landmark ordinance making it more comprehensive and effective. The landscape ordinance, tree preservation ordinance, subdivision regulations, basin design regulations and maintenance and management guidelines for stormwater basins are also under review. These ordinances will be drafted to reflect the Village's desire to protect the rural character and create sustainable landscapes.

As these regulations are adopted by the Village Board, Homer Glen will be well positioned for the economic recovery and future growth of our community.

Parks and Recreation Planning

In 2007 the Village adopted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. As part of this document, goals were established for the Village including the development of a trails master plan. Staff has been assisting the Trails Task Force who have been finalizing the Trails Master Plan. The Master Plan will identify future trail alignments and connectivity with other local and regional trails. Under the direction of Trustee Knaack, segments of the community have been analyzed for development potential of the trail system. Input has been solicited from the community and the public is welcome to attend the task force meeting and contribute to the process.

One of the goals identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the development of community parks. With an identified shortage of over 152 acres dedicated for park use, the plan proposes four (4) potential sites for community parks. One of those sites is a 98 acre parcel known as the Dunn Farm, located on 159th Street. The Mayor and Village Board are currently investigating the purchase of this parcel for a community park. A Letter of Intent has been executed and a public forum has been scheduled for November 16th, where the Plan Commission and Village Board will meet jointly to discuss acquisition of property for a community park and the bond financing for the property acquisition.

Economic Development

Village staff recently attended the International Council of Shopping Centers Deal Making Conference in Chicago. Real Estate professionals from across the Midwest gather at this annual conference to network and investigate opportunities for commercial retail development. Staff met with developers, retailers, brokers and vendors to promote the village as a prominent and desirable location for high quality development. Green-site development, access from I-355 and infill development were all highlighted as attributes of Homer Glen. A large number of contacts were made that ideally will result in new development and businesses for the community.

The Village Board recently approved a 7,575 square foot, 10 bay, auto service and retail center on one of the outlots in front of Menards on Bell Road. The new Firestone Tire facility is expected to break ground by early spring. Water Fall Glen, which consists of one planned building of approximately 34,230 sf of retail, restaurant, banquet and office space and one planned office building consisting of 48,000 sf located on 159th Street has begun the entitlement process. Preliminary engineering is currently under review for the two (2) building planned unit development. The Plan Commission is expected to begin its review of the project within the next few months. In the last four months several new businesses have opened their doors including Porter's Pizza, Orient Café, Bam Tile, Inc and Wise Buys Resale.

If you have any questions regarding any community development projects please contact Edmond Cage at (708)301-0632 for any further information.

Home Rule Sale Tax Provides New Revenue Source

John Sawyers, Finance Director

Home rules sales tax (HRST) became effective July 1, 2009. The State of Illinois collects this tax from Village merchants then forwards to Village. It takes two and half months from the end of the sales month for Illinois to process and distribute the HRST to Village. Consequently, at the time of this report the Village has collected two months (representing July and August sales) of HRST.

In the approved Village budget for 4/30/2010, the Village projected HRST (for eight months, Oct 2009 - Apr 2010) at \$982,495. The projection was calculated under the presumption that 70% of the existing sales in the Village would be subject to the new HRST. With two months of HRST in the bank, the trend of eligible sales is closer to 80%. Consequently, the Village has collected more HRST than projected in the approved budget.

The objective of the new HRST was to fund significant capital activities such as park acquisition and the sewer line project. With municipal bond rates at 40 year lows, the Village has researched the prospect of funding projects with municipal bonds and obligating HRST as the revenue stream for bond repayment.

The Village has been approved for \$15 million in bond capacity. Current municipal bond rates for a 10 year term average approximately 3%. Based on recent HRST revenue projections and 40 year low bond rates the Village will have sufficient funds available to pay bonds.

At one of the earlier Village public meetings, Attorney Vincent Cainkar presented current bond market conditions and was available to answer questions. The Village website provides additional information in the Q & A format provided by Attorney Vincent Cainkar who is a nationally recognized bond counsel listed in the Red Book. Residents are encouraged to review the following link for further information on the issuance of general obligation bonds. <http://www.homerglen.org/regulations/Municipal%20Bonds.htm>.



SAVE THE DATE

**Homer Glen
School
Summit
February 11
2009**

Mayors of Homer Glen,
Lockport and Crest Hill at
address the concerns of
residents in all three com-
munities.

**Homer Glen
Council Chamber
14917 S. Founders
Crossing**

Getting Ready for Winter Streets

By Mike DeVivo, Homer Highway Commissioner

A priority schedule is set to plow major intersections first, school bus routes second, then primary collector streets to allow 2-way traffic to pass safely and finally feeder streets, cul-de-sacs & dead ends.

The following streets are NOT plowed by the Homer Township Highway Department:

State Roads - 159th Street and IL Route 171

County Roads - Bell Road, 143rd Street, Cedar Road (South of 159th), Division (West of Cedar Road), Hadley Road (East of Parker to Line), Parker Road (South of Bruce) and any new subdivision NOT accepted by the Township.

Please be sure your garbage containers are placed well back from the curb on your garbage pick-up day, before the waste hauler and snowplow have come,

For more information login to: www.homerhighway.com

Use Energy Wisely

Install programmable thermostats, save energy by programming your thermostat to day time temps of 68° and nighttime at 60°.

Check home installation, install weather stripping and caulking on drafty doors and windows to save energy.

Use curtains, shades and shutters for energy saving, open up your blinds to let the sun in and close them to hold your heat in at night.

Change your incandescent Christmas lights both inside and outside to the compact fluorescents lights for low energy usage.



FYI From the Code Compliance Officer

PARKING DURING SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS

Homer Glen ORDINANCE # 02-005 prohibits PARKING ON VILLAGE STREETS AFTER A 2" SNOWFALL, **UNTIL VILLAGE STREETS ARE PLOWED**



Reminder: Village Ordinance 08-013 prohibits blocking or parking across a Village sidewalk. Please remember to keep our sidewalks open for the safety of all Village residents.



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Please remember to recycle!



Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

14933 S. Founders Crossing • Homer Glen, IL 60491

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.

PRSRD STANDARD
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LOCKPORT, IL
PERMIT NO. 83

Village of Homer Glen Officials

Mayor

Jim Daley

Clerk

Gale Skrobuton

Trustees

Michael Costa

Russell Knaack

Mary Niemiec

Margaret Sabo

Laurel Ward

George Yukich

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

To the Homer Glen Resident at: