



H O M E W O O D

# VILLAGE KEY

SUMMER 2009



*RUN, WALK, VISIT HOMEWOOD*



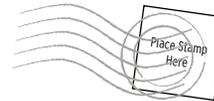
*Geocaching*



*Farmer's Market*

### HOMWOOD, ILLINOIS

Originally a tiny hamlet named Thornton Station, Homewood earned its name and reputation in 1869 when the Illinois Central Railroad decided that the pastoral beauty of the area was perfect for both golf courses and lakes. Since then, though it's grown, Homewood continues to combine tradition with a charming urban flair.



*Stay and Play  
in Homewood!*



*Homewood residents  
2020 Chestnut Road  
Homewood, IL  
60430*



*Hello from  
Homewood, Illinois*



**SHOP HOMEWOOD**



**DOG DAYS • HOMEWOOD, ILLINOIS**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- June 26 ..... Starry Nights Concert: Doo Wop Spectacular  
Irwin Park; 8:00 PM, Call the H-F Park District: 957-0300
- June 27 ..... A Touch of Green at the Farmers' Market  
Rain barrels and water garden workshops  
St. Paul Community Church lot 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Call the Manager's Office: 206-3393
- July 4 ..... Independence Day Parade & Family Fun Fest, 11:00 AM  
Call the H-F Park District: 957-0300
- July 10, 12, 13... Homewood Days, Downtown Homewood; 11:00 AM to  
10:00 PM Friday and Saturday; Noon to 10:00 PM on Sunday  
Call the Homewood Area Chamber: 206-3384
- July 17 ..... Movies in Our Parks: *Hotel for Dogs*  
Flossmoor Baseball Park; Movie starts at dusk  
Call the Flossmoor Public Library: 798-3600
- July 24 ..... Starry Nights Concert Series: "1964"- Beatles Tribute Band  
Irwin Park; 8:00 PM, Call the H-F Park District: 957-0300
- July 25 ..... A Touch of Green at the Farmers' Market  
Free Document Shredding and Paper recycling  
St. Paul Community Church lot 8:00 AM  
Call the Manager's Office: 206-3393
- August 15 ..... Dog Days of Summer, Irwin Park; 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Call the Manager's Office: 206-3375
- August 21 ..... Movies in Our Parks: *Disney's High School Musical III*, featuring  
HSM Karaoke, Irwin Park; Movie starts at Dusk  
Call the Homewood Public Library: 798-0121
- August 22 ..... A Touch of Green at the Farmers' Market  
Free electronic waste recycling  
St. Paul Community Church lot 8:00 AM- 1:00 PM  
Call the Manager's Office: 206-3393
- September 26.... Fall Fest & Chili Cook Off  
Hickory Road at Dixie Highway and Martin Avenue  
11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Call the Manager's Office: 206-3375

# VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Village Hall Board Room, 2020 Chestnut Road. Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays, as announced. The public is invited to all meetings and they may introduce appropriate items not listed on the agenda.

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT**  
Richard A. Hofeld

**VILLAGE CLERK**  
Gayle Campbell

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Trustee Anne Colton  
Trustee Barbara Dawkins  
Trustee Ray Robertson  
Trustee Joe Casella  
Trustee Thomas W. Kataras  
Trustee Glenn Tienstra

## BOARD, COMMISSION & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Village Hall, 2020 Chestnut Road. A monthly schedule of all meetings is posted in the lobby of the Village Hall or visit the calendar online at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com)

- Appearance Commission
- Beautification Committee
- Cable TV Commission
- Committee of the Whole
- Community Relations Commission
- Economic Development Committee
- Fire and Police Commission
- Heritage Committee
- Homewood Rail Committee

- Plan Commission
- Police Chief's Citizens Advisory Committee
- Senior Advisory Committee
- Stormwater Resource Committee
- Tree Committee
- Veterans Committee
- Village Board of Trustees
- Zone Board of Appeals

## PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTORY

Teach your children how to use 9-1-1 in an emergency

Village of Homewood (Main Number) 798-3000

- Police Emergency ..... 9-1-1
  - Fire & Paramedic Emergency ..... 9-1-1
  - Police Non-Emergency ..... 206-3420
  - Fire Dept. Non-Emergency ..... 206-3400
  - Manager's Office ..... 206-3377
  - Public Works Dept. .... 206-3470
  - Building Dept. .... 206-3858
  - Community Development ..... 206-3385
  - After Hours Water Emergency..... 798-2131
  - Prop. Maint./Code Enforcement ..... 206-3858
  - Homewood Public Library ..... 798-0121
  - Homewood Post Office..... 798-5762
  - Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce ..... 206-3384
  - Homewood-Flossmoor Park District ..... 957-0300
  - Marie Irwin Community Center..... 957-7275
  - H-F Senior Activity Center..... 957-7275
  - Racquet & Fitness Club..... 799-1323
  - Ice Arena..... 957-0100
  - Dolphin Lake Pool..... 798-0085
  - Lions Club Pool..... 799-2223
  - School District 153 ..... 799-5661
  - School District 161 ..... 647-7000
  - Homewood Flossmoor High School..... 799-3000
  - St. Joseph School..... 798-0467
  - Homewood Community Academy..... 799-6912
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Richard A. Hofeld  
Village President

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Homewood-Flossmoor High School, one of the jewels of our community. Over the years Homewood-Flossmoor has received many awards for scholastic, athletic, music, art and performing arts achievements. Three times the U.S. Department of Education has awarded their very prestigious "Blue Ribbon" award to H-F. The roll of "famous" H-F graduates in the academic, music, arts, athletic and journalism fields continues to grow. My children all attended H-F and one even enjoyed the school so much he was on the 5 year plan! Now my grandchildren attend school there.

As a product of Chicago schools

(O'Keefe grammar school, South Shore High School and Wilson Junior College), I am always amazed by the variety of classes and activities as well as the excellent facilities at H-F. The building and grounds are so well maintained; just to walk into the building and step onto carpeted hallways is something I certainly never encountered when attending high school! The students are enthusiastic and the school pride is so evident it makes you realize that H-F is indeed a very special place. H-F is a school where the accomplishments of the past are noted, highlighted and emphasized, and today's students are encouraged to exceed them.

Recently I attended H-F's Founder's Day, honoring their 50th

anniversary. I spoke of recollections of what Homewood was like in 1959, 50 years ago. I'll share them with you now. *Do you remember when....*

Aurelio's Pizza opened their very first location on the south side of Ridge Road between Martin and Harwood. Aurelio's now is a chain of 43 stores. On August 20, 2009 they will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The Homewood Theater, on the west side of Dixie Highway, (now a parking lot) was showing "Ben Hur", "Gidget" and "Sleeping Beauty." The Homewood Theater

President's Message  
*continued on page 4*

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## President's Message

*continued from page 3*

was rather unique. Halfway through the movie an intermission would take place. The lights would come on and everyone would leave their seats and go into the lobby where complimentary coffee and cookies were served. After 15 minutes or so of chatting with other moviegoers, everyone returned to their seats to watch the conclusion of the movie. It was a beautiful touch. Today I miss not only that, but the Homewood Theater itself which was torn-down in 1992.

Melody Mart, at its current location on Dixie Highway was selling 78's of the hit recordings of the year: "Mack the Knife" by Bobby Darrin, "Battle of New Orleans" by Johnnie Horton and

"Venus" by Frankie Avalon.

Van Drunen Ford was located at 183rd and Dixie Highway where Chase Bank is currently located. Ford T-Birds were selling for \$3,250. Van Drunen Ford is Homewood's oldest business. Now located on 183rd St., just west of Kedzie, they will be celebrating their 80th anniversary.

The "Toy Box" at Ridge and Martin introduced a hot new toy for girls, Barbie®.

Homewood grocery stores included Kroger (18209 Dixie), Royal Blue (2057 Ridge), A&P (1933 Ridge) and Garofalo's Food Store at 18735 Dixie Highway

(Bread was selling for \$.20 a loaf and steak \$1.09 per pound)

Washington Park race track was just west of Halsted, south of 175th Street. (In fact the original infield lakes are still in place at Maple Road between Freedom Village and the homes on Presidents Drive).

There have been "a few" changes in Homewood over these past 50 years. Our business areas have expanded tremendously with almost every desired business now available to today's customers. New restaurants offering various types of food abound. Our population has doubled and is more aligned toward the wonderful diversity that now defines all of America. Village

events were started several years ago, and are now part of the fiber that spells "community."

Do come out and participate in our summer-time events—the Saturday Farmers' Market with its monthly "Touch of Green" happenings, Homewood Days and our Dog Days of Summer event.

Bring family and friends to enjoy our summer-time events. Just think, 50 years from now our kids and grandkids will remember these events as being "the good old days".

Remember, during Homewood Days I will give Caribou Coffee coupons each day to the first 15 persons who stop me and say, "It's a beautiful day to be in Homewood". I'll see you there!

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# HHC

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# SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

## H-F Park District Announces 2009 Starry Nights Concert Series

For more than two decades, the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District has brought top-notch entertainers to town at the Marie Irwin Bandshell, located in Irwin Park at Ridge Road and Highland Avenue in Homewood.

This summer—as the Starry Nights concert series celebrates its 23rd year—concertgoers will enjoy three shows: The Guess Who, on Friday, June 12; a Doo Wop Spectacular on Friday, June 26; and “1964” The Tribute on Friday, July 24.

### The Guess Who Friday, June 12

Well known in the late '60s and



The El Dorados

early '70s for experimenting with the sounds of freedom, psychedelic and garage rock, The Guess Who reunited in 2000. They bring their unique, memorable sound down from Canada to H-F this summer! Enjoy a long string of hits, as this band was one of the very few that had double-sided singles where songs from both sides went to No. 1 on the charts. Hits include: *These Eyes; Laughing; No Time;*

*Undun; American Woman; Share the Land; and No Sugar Tonight/New Mother Nature.* Advance tickets are \$20/adults and \$7/kids ages 12 and under.

### Doo Wop Spectacular Friday, June 26

This night will feature three hot Doo Wop acts for an evening of old favorites: Terry Johnson's Flamingos; The El Dorados; and Johnny Keyes & the Magnificents, all backed up by the Flat Cats Band. Featured songs will include: *I Only Have Eyes for You; Mia Amore; Golden Teardrops; I'll Be Home; Crazy Little*

*Mama; At My Front Door; Bim, Bam, Boom; Up on a Mountain; and Why Did She Go.* Advance tickets are \$15/adults and \$7/kids ages 12 and under.

### 1964 Friday, July 24

In 1964, The Beatles invaded America with the *continued on page 6*



The Flamingos



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phone: (708) 799-2810 fax: (708) 799-1475

## Summer Concert Series

continued from page 5

music that defined a generation. Don't miss this opportunity to hear live performances of such hits including: *Hard Days Night*; *Rock and Roll Music*; *Day Tripper*; *I'll Follow the Sun* and *Spoil the Party*. See why Rolling Stone Magazine called 1964 "The Number One Beatles Tribute Show on Earth!" Advance tickets are \$15/ adults and \$7/kids ages 12 and under.

For all three shows, Irwin Park will open to the public at 6:30 PM with performances beginning at 8:00 PM Food and beverages will be available from Starry Nights vendors. Starry Nights is a smoke-free event.

Advance tickets can be purchased at (708)

957-0300 or (708) 957-PARK, beginning Friday, May 1. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Goldberg Center (3301 Flossmoor Road, Flossmoor) or at the Irwin Center (18120 S. Highland Ave., Homewood). Tickets at the gate will be an additional \$5.

Sponsors of this year's series

include: AAA Rental; Target; Clarion Inn; Walt's Food Centers; the SouthtownStar; Comcast; Sir Speedy; Citizen's Financial Services; Lighthouse Printing; Kirschner Vision Group; Advocate South Suburban; Harris Bank; Homewood Disposal; Charter One Bank; Hayes Beer Distributors; Bimba;

Sherry Liang, Baird & Warner; and Thiernau Financial Services.

For more information or for previews of the bands, visit [hfparks.com](http://hfparks.com).

The Homewood-Flossmoor Park District is a two-time National Gold Medal Award Winner for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.



*The Magnificents*



*1964*



**3 Year Olds**      **4-5 Year Olds**  
Tues. - Thurs.      Tues. - Fri.  
9 am - 11:30 am      9 am - 11:30 am

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Ingalls Urgent Aid patient

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- > Broken bones
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- > Fever/Flu
- > Gastrointestinal distress
- > Cuts, burns and bruises

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### Downtown Parking

Four public parking lots located throughout the downtown area are available to shoppers, residents, and downtown employees. These lots provide three hour parking throughout the week and on weekends for customers/shoppers in the downtown area. Businesses should participate in the employee parking program to allow their employees to park in designated lots all day. This frees up street parking for patrons. The stickers for downtown employees are free-of-charge. Call the Finance Department for sticker details (708) 206-3368.



An additional parking lot for downtown patrons is the Village Hall Parking Lot. The lot is available for use on weeknights from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM and provides unlimited parking on weekends (Saturday, Sunday, and holidays too). During the week, the Village Hall Parking Lot has up to five (5) parking spaces available for residents taking the train to Chicago for the day. Daily rental spaces are \$2 per day and available to residents only. The Village also offers two (2) spaces for seniors who periodically need to travel to Chicago using rail transportation.

Fall Fest will be held on Saturday, September 26



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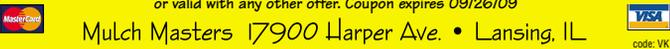
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# POLICE AND FIRE NEWS



## 4th of July Parade and Picnic

The Fire Department organizes the line-up for the annual Independence Day parade, which marches from the Fire Station on Dixie Highway to Ridge Road, and east to the Izaak Walton Preserve. All entries to the parade must be decorated in patriotic themes. All entry forms must be received by June 26 at 5:00 PM. Children can enter decorated bicycles, wagons, etc. and win prize money. No entry form is needed for children. The

parade line-up begins at 10:45 AM in the St. Joseph Church parking lot; parade step-off is promptly at 11:30 AM.

A new application form will be used this year to better organize the line-up. Written parade entry confirmation notices with a designated line-up number will be mailed after June 26. Applications are available at Village Hall and at the Fire Department, or on the Village website under the "Events" link.

Thousands of Homewood residents, friends, family and visitors enjoy the parade as well as the Family Fun Fest sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District held after the parade at the Izaak Walton Preserve. Residents can bring their own picnic, or buy food from the Ikes. Children's games are organized for all kids who attend. Contact the H-F Park District for information about the Family Fun Fest at (708) 957-0300.

## Red Light Traffic Safety Cameras

Red Light Traffic Safety Cameras are located at the following intersections:

- southbound Halsted Street at 175th Street
- southbound Halsted Street at Ridge Road
- southbound Halsted Street at 183rd Street
- eastbound 183rd Street at Governor's Highway
- northbound Governor's Highway at 183rd Street

According to the National Campaign to stop red light running, photo enforcement is no longer an emerging technology but a proven, well-established traffic safety tool that reduces crashes and saves lives. It is safer than the traditional law enforcement technique of observation, chase and citation because officers do not have to run through the red light at possibly high speeds to pursue violators, putting officers and other motorists at risk.

It also affords officers more time to focus on other important work where their presence is required. Red light camera enforcement is a proven traffic safety tool that provides effective, continuous enforcement. Recent studies on red light camera enforcement conclude that cameras reduce personal injury crashes by 30 percent.

The cameras will operate seven (7) days a week and 24-hours a day and will capture both still and video

images of each vehicle running through the intersection(s) when the traffic light is red. The Village of Homewood program is administered by Gatso International. Each violation will be reviewed by the Homewood Police Department for citation issuance.

## Dialing 9-1-1

The Fire Department responds 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to requests for emergency services. When a caller dials 9-1-1, the E-Com Dispatch Center call takers determine the nature of the request and the Fire Department is notified with the appropriate dispatch information.

But what if you don't think your request is an "emergency" and you decide not to dial 9-1-1, but call the Fire Department's business telephone number? For example:

- You need an ambulance but you don't think it's an "emergency".
- Your carbon monoxide detector

is sounding but you don't think it's an "emergency", you just want the Fire Department to "check it out".

- Someone in your house has fallen and you can't get them off the floor by yourself, you just need a little help lifting.

- You had a pot on your stove flame over, but you put the fire out yourself. You believe there is no further problem and just want the Fire Department to check.

The Fire Department wants you to dial 9-1-1 in all of these and similar situations. Fire Department personnel may be out of the station on emergency calls or training

exercises, and no one will be able to answer the business telephone number, particularly at night and on weekends. After receiving your 9-1-1 call, the Dispatch Center starts the process to set personnel and vehicles in motion. Valuable time may be lost by not calling them directly.

Always dial 9-1-1 and explain your request to the Dispatch Center call takers. They have been trained to evaluate your request and will notify the Fire Department with the correct information to get the right people and equipment to your home or business as quickly as possible.

## Outdoor Fireplaces

The weather is warming and it's time to enjoy the outdoors. Remember that the use of outdoor fireplaces is OK, so long as they're used safely and courteously. Municipal Code Section 90-33 requires that the units be self-contained, manufactured devices, placed at least 20' from any building, structure, vehicle or combustible fence and must be supervised at all times by an adult. Only dry wood is to be burned to keep smoke production to a minimum. Please be aware of the wind direction and operate your outdoor fireplace in a safe and neighborly manner.



## Have You Considered a Neighborhood Watch?

The Neighborhood Watch Program is organized to enable police and the community to work together to make specific geographical areas more crime resistant. It is a community-based effort designed to help citizens and the police reduce crime and concerns in neighborhoods. One of the most effective ways to promote citizen interaction with police is the sharing of information.

Neighborhood groups determine specific needs or problems and then share this information with the police through community meetings, merchant meetings, or condo association meetings. The police then act on this information and report back to the group on their progress. An effective Neighborhood Watch requires consistent, independent group participation.

**Q:** *Why should I start a Neighborhood Watch and what are the benefits?*

**A:** A Neighborhood Watch is the most successful anticrime initiative in the country. It is the most effective and least expensive tool used by law enforcement and concerned citizens.

**Neighborhood Watch Programs:**

- Reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a crime through training

- Teach you how to spot suspicious activity
- Address issues of concern in your neighborhood
- Provide opportunities for you to know your neighbors
- Identify your neighborhood as proactive in crime prevention.

For information about starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, contact Homewood Police Officer Curt Wiest at (708) 206-3426.

## Why Do I Hear a Siren?

Homewood's outdoor warning system (siren tone and voice messaging) is used to alert residents to emergency situations, and is tested the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM. Three outdoor emergency warning sirens are installed in the Village of Homewood: 183rd Street and Stewart Avenue; the 1300 block of

187th Street, and the Municipal Service Center located at 17755 Ashland Avenue. The system provides both siren tones and voice messaging to residents.

Another siren sound you may hear is the Village of East Hazel Crest Fire Department's alerting siren, which notifies its members to respond to a fire or medical

emergency within East Hazel Crest. These two sirens can be distinguished from each other because Homewood's siren alert includes a voice message.

If you hear Homewood's siren during a weather emergency, please do not call the Village Hall, dial 9-1-1, the Police Department or the Fire Department with questions.

If there is an emergency these departments will be very busy – tune to your local weather station for details. You are encouraged to register your telephone numbers with the "CodeRed" Emergency Notification System by visiting [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com).



## Summertime Safety by Officer Curt Wiest

Summer is here with the inviting warmth, aroma of barbeques and frenzied sounds of neighborhood children at play. Parents must never presume their child recognizes or even stops to think about what is safe and unsafe. Kids think they are invincible. For parents, this means being extra vigilant to keep your kids safe and healthy.

**Car Safety**

- A child trapped inside a hot car can suffocate quickly. When it is 93°F out, the temperature inside a car can reach 125°F in 20 minutes, even with a window cracked.
  - Never leave him/her in an unattended car, even if the windows are down.
  - Always keep your car locked, even when it's in the driveway or garage.
  - Keep automobile keys out of reach and out of sight of children.

- Teach older children how to disable child-resistant locks in case of emergency.
- Make sure your trunk or hatch is locked at all times.

**Wooded Areas**

- Brief your children on what to do if they get lost after dark. Let them know that their best survival bet, if lost, is to stay in one place and wait to be found.
- Equip your children with a small penlight.
- Attach a small whistle to the zipper of a coat. A whistle is an ideal signaling device.

**Dark and Dusk**

- Rising temperatures and increasing hours of daylight bring with them a corresponding increase in traffic accidents involving kids and cars. The periods of greatest risk are the hours just before and

- after sunset.
  - All evening play clothes (especially jackets, coats, and wind breakers) should have reflective cloth strips. So should bikes, helmets, and backpacks.
  - Evening strolls should include a flashpoint, especially if all or most of the walking is along side roads and streets without sidewalks.
  - Bike riding should be specifically prohibited, unless the bike has been equipped with reflectors, head lamps, and other night-riding safely features.

**Playing in the Street**

- City streets are not playgrounds. I don't advise that kids use them as such. However, if you do allow your kids to play in the street or on lightly traveled roads, please follow a few common sense safety tips.
  - Stop all play when a vehicle

is spotted; move to the side of the road and resume play only after the vehicle has passed.

- Use inexpensive traffic cones to mark in the street that kids are playing ahead

**Water Areas**

- Always be on guard when your child is around contained water sources: buckets of water, toilets, pools, ponds and streams. Toddlers are top heavy, so they easily fall headfirst into pools, fountains and buckets. If they can't maneuver their head out to breath, it may be deadly.

**Dog Bites**

- Dogs are kid magnets. Teach your little ones to ask to pet the dog instead of just running up to them and petting them. Never assume they won't bite or hurt a flea, as the owner may say.

# SUMMER FUN IN HOMEWOOD

## Stay and Play in Homewood

By John Williams Jr., Homewood resident and contributing writer

Due to the historic U.S. economic downturn, shuttered businesses and home for sale signs are everyday realities in neighborhoods everywhere. Dire economic times can sorely test the fabric of neighborhoods. At the same time, they can also renew the spirit and meaning of community.

Many essential ingredients go into strong and rooted communities: conscientious residents, devoted public officials, fun recreational and entertainment events, organized youth sports programs, dedicated volunteers, flourishing schools, involved civic institutions, and responsive businesses. For decades, the Village of Homewood has mastered this recipe for success.

With a downtown business district of locally owned stores and shopping strips anchored by national retailers, Homewood residents are a short walk, bike ride, or car trip away from their favorite stores. The deep-seated recession, however, is taking a toll on the pocket books of residents and bottom lines of local stores, according to Homewood business and civic leaders.

"People are watching how they are spending and are more reluctant to spend on unnecessary items—but they are still spending," says Pam Dennis, owner of Bella Vita Home Accents, a family owned and operated home décor and gift boutique located at 18111 Dixie Highway in the downtown area.

Allisa Opyd, a member of the Homewood Economic Development Committee, says, "Local stores are a major factor in what makes Homewood great." In addition to returning revenues to the local economy and creating jobs, many Homewood stores contribute to community charities, sponsor youth athletic teams, and underwrite neighborhood events and school activities. "They are (an integral) part of our community," she states.

To bring back former customers and attract new ones, many stores are developing creative strategies and

incentives, according to Annemarie Gutchewsky, a Homewood resident and Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce employee. For example, a group of downtown business owners joined forces in early May to offer an evening of fun and bargains for female shoppers as part of a special "Girls Night Out" promotion.

Expressing appreciation for the success of "Girls Night Out" and other marketing events designed to increase patronage at neighborhood stores, Dennis says it is crucial for Homewood residents and businesses to look out for each other during these tough financial times.

For people throughout the country, the economic recession has meant making hard choices and altering ingrained

lifestyles. Consumers are deferring major purchases, paying more with cash, driving less, eating out less, using more coupons, and reducing their reliance on credit.

In a recent Time magazine survey, nearly 40 percent of the respondents reported they have postponed or canceled a vacation to save money.

Amid the continuous flow of negative economic news from media outlets, it is all too easy for people to become dispirited. Understanding this, the Village reminds residents they can "stay and play" this summer. Over the next few months, Homewood will sponsor a succession of festive events in the downtown area, including:

**Homewood Days:** A giant three-day block party in downtown Homewood featuring food, grand entertainment, live music, crafts, and more.

**July 4th Parade and Family Fest:** Sponsored by Homewood civic groups and businesses, this annual parade travels down Ridge Road and concludes at the Izaak Walton Preserve.

**Movies in Our Parks:** Enjoy movies on the big screen, shown under the stars at Homewood-Flossmoor community parks throughout the summer.

dogs with a day of fun for the entire family and their four-legged friends. Highlighted by the annual Pooch Parade, this fun-filled day for dog lovers features tasty cuisine, live music and entertainment, games and sporting competitions.

**Veterans BBQ:** Hosted by the Homewood Veteran's Committee, this special event honors residents who served in all branches of the United States military.



For more information on these events, log on to the community events page at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com).

**Farmers' Market:** Offering the freshest fruits, vegetables, pastries, homemade breads, jams and jellies, flowers and a whole lot more, the market is held every Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the St. Paul Community Church parking lot on Dixie Highway. The market runs from June through mid-October.

**Starry Night Concert Series:** Held at Irwin Park, the H-F Park District's Starry Nights Concerts have been a community tradition in the Chicago Southland for more than 20 years.

**Dog Days of Summer:** Residents can celebrate all things

While he enjoys all the entertainment and community events Homewood offers, Village Mayor Richard Hofeld gets a big kick out of attending neighborhood block parties that are held throughout the summer. Noting he has attended 99 percent of these gatherings over the past 12 years, Hofeld loves sampling the delicious variety of foods and talking to residents about their needs and concerns, which are often magnified during rough patches in the economy.

During good times and bad, bringing people and businesses together defines close-knit communities. In every respect, Homewood personifies what a model community should be.

## Downtown Homewood Farmers' Market to feature Green Saturdays:

The Downtown Homewood Farmers' Market runs through October 17. The market is held every Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the parking lot of St. Paul Community Church located at 18200 Dixie Highway. Shoppers will find a vast array of specialty products and organic produce, including fresh cut flowers and perennials, coffee and tea, culinary herbs, and specialty meats and cheeses.

### Market Vendors\*:

- Fatty's: gourmet baked goods
- Hansel Farms: organic produce, dairy, and flowers
- Herr Farms: organic produce and flowers
- Homewood Kitchen Gardeners: organic produce
- Howard's Dog Bakery: organic dog treats
- Jeffrey Farms: produce and flowers

- Labriola Breads: fresh breads
- Lyons Fruit Farm: produce and flowers
- Oh Fudge: gourmet fudge and chocolate
- Paula Newton's Jams: jams, jellies, and fruit butter
- Rosanne Tadsen: produce, flowers, granolas
- Stamper Cheese: gourmet cheeses
- The Pampered Chef: kitchen items and pantry goods
- Watkins Products: organic household products and spices
- Witvoet Farmstand: produce and flowers

This year, the Village will offer green activities for eco-minded residents on five dates during the season.



### Green Saturdays Schedule

**June 27**  
Purchase a rain barrel and learn how to incorporate a rain garden in any landscape.

**July 25**  
Free document shredding and recycling.

**August 22**  
Free electronic waste recycling.

**September 26**  
Free medication recycling

**October 17**  
Free CFL light bulb distribution to all market shoppers.

For more than two decades, Homewood's market has linked local farmers to consumers with fresh nutritious foods. For market information, please call 206-3375.

\*Vendors listed were confirmed at the time this publication was written. Vendor listing subject to change throughout the season.

## Dog Days of Summer

The Community Relations Commission will host another 'petacular' Dog Days of Summer event on Saturday, August 15 from noon to 4:00 PM at Irwin Park. The event will feature an amazing Frisbee show, live entertainment, music and food, vendor booths, kid activities, games and contests, and Homewood's annual pooch parade.

### About the Parade

At 1:00 PM, hundreds of costumed dogs will strut Irwin Park entertaining dog-less gawkers as they compete for "Top Dog" in five unique categories:

- Most Original Owner-Dog Team
- Most Humorous
- Most Unique
- Best Celebrity Look-Alike
- Best in Parade (overall)

Judging will be based on originality, showmanship, detail

of costume and first impression. Prizes and bragging rights will be awarded.

Check-in is at noon. Participants must be pre-registered; applications are available online ([homesweethomewood.com/dogdaysofsummer](http://homesweethomewood.com/dogdaysofsummer)), Village Hall, Homewood-Flossmoor Park District facilities, Petco, and downtown Homewood merchants. Completed applications must be received by Friday, August 7.

The parade benefits area rescue groups and shelters; donations will be taken during parade registration.

### About the Entertainment

At 2:00 PM, Brian Hayes, founder of The Flying Aces, will team up with "Ulysses, The Frisbee Dog" to put on an amazing Frisbee show and incredible trick routine.

Throughout the day, fest goers



can support area rescue groups and shop specialty dog care products, ranging from organic dog foods to the trendiest pet accessories.

Kid activities will include dog-themed crafts and games, face painting, and bouncers. Contests will include a dog treat stacking race, the annual Homewood hot dog eating challenge, and Frisbee throwing matches for the Bi-peds. Downtown Homewood's favorite restaurants and grills will serve up the summer's best recipes.

### Event Schedule

- 12:00 PM: Registration
- 1:00 PM: Pooch Parade
- 2:00 PM: Frisbee Show
- 2:45 PM: Parade Results
- 3:00 PM: Bi-Ped Contests



### FREE FAMILY FUN

*The HF Joint Community Relations Commission presents*

## Movies in our Parks

### Hotel for Dogs

Friday, July 19

Flossmoor Park in Flossmoor (Flossmoor Road and Brassie)

### High School Musical 3

*With karaoke before the show*  
Friday, August 21

Irwin Park in Homewood (Ridge Road and Highland)

Grab a picnic basket and a blanket and enjoy the show. You bring the snacks, we'll bring the stars.

*Supported by:  
Village of Flossmoor  
Village of Homewood  
Homewood Library  
Flossmoor Library  
H-F Park District*

## COUPON

Bring this coupon to Dog Days on Saturday August 15 at noon to receive a flying disc.

*While supplies last.*

## Online Water Billing Option

In April, the Finance Department introduced the option to pay your water bill online. If you have not signed up for this fast and convenient service, follow these simple steps to get started:

- Log on to the Village website and select "Pay Your Water Bill On-Line"
- Follow the easy payment

instructions

- First time users, please use your 12 digit water account number, without any dashes, for both your account number and your password
- Select to have an E-Bill notification sent to your e-mail address, print your current bill and view your usage and payment history

## Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve

The Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve (HIWP) is proud to announce the creation of a nature-themed art gallery in Senior Hall. This gallery has been created to display all types of artwork with a natural content, with the primary focus being the Preserve itself. They are soliciting contributions from area residents for the grand opening scheduled for October 24, 2009. All participants are required to submit their work for screening by the HIWP. The HIWP reserves the right to accept or decline any contribution. Artists will be able to offer their artwork for private



purchase. All transactions will be carried out between the concerned parties with no involvement of the HIWP. The gallery will change content every three months and will continue to solicit contributions throughout the course of the year. Please contact John W. Miller for further details at 401-3430, or miata60430@yahoo.com.

## Block Parties

The Community Relations Commission encourages residents to plan a block party. Throwing a block party is a great way to meet new neighbors and renew old acquaintances. It's a terrific way to build community spirit and a sense of neighborhood... and, simply have some summer time fun! For those who have not yet started the block party tradition, the Community Relations Commissions invites residents to visit the Village website to learn how to coordinate a party with your neighbors. If you are interested in having a member of the Community Relations Commission contact you to help you plan a block party in your neighborhood, please contact the Community Information Coordinator at 206-3375.



## e-Newsire

Are you a member of the e-Newsire community? If not, you are missing out on receiving updates about the services, projects, programs, and events within this community. Simply visit the Village website and select the "News" link to subscribe to the bi-weekly electronic newsletter.

## Website

Remember to visit the official Village website for up-to-date details on Village services, programs, and events: homesweethomewood.com.

## Got a bicycle? You need a license

The license is valid for as long as the license holder owns the bike. The cost is \$2.00 each and is available at the Village Hall. The serial number on the bicycle is required.

## Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The Village of Homewood is proud of its heritage and its strong sense of community. It is the wealth of its heritage that has contributed greatly to the Homewood we know today. Homewood has been privileged to have many individuals who have given generously of their time and talent to maintain and strengthen the sense of community that has been so vital in developing Homewood as a prosperous community.

The Heritage Committee

recently selected 2008 Hall of Fame honorees; these individuals were nominated by the public and then reviewed by the Heritage Committee. The Committee determined the following were worthy of recognition for their significant and beneficial contributions to the life and well being of the Village of Homewood:

- **Richard R. Casey**, *Village Trustee, Police and Fire Commission, community volunteer*

- **James A. Cowing**, *Village Clerk, businessman*
- **Nellie Cowing**, *postmistress*
- **Father Stephen Sullivan**, *priest (St. Joseph Church)*
- **Arthur Welsh**, *businessman, owner of Dairy Queen, philanthropist, community supporter*
- **Dr. Mary Woodland**, *Village Trustee, Storm Water Committee Chair, geologist*
- **Dr. Bertram Woodland**, *geologist, community supporter*

The 2009 Hall of Fame Inauguration Luncheon will be held in October. The fall issue of the Village Key will have details.

Everyone is invited. Call the Village Hall for details and to receive an invitation. If you would like to nominate a resident for next year, nomination forms are available at the Village Hall.



# Homewood Days 2009 sponsored by St. James Hospital

By Bill Frank,  
Homewood Days Chairman,  
the Homewood Area Chamber

Voted Best Festival in the South Suburban Area, Homewood Days is back again this year and on track to provide residents and their guests the best three days of fun-packed musical entertainment, food and refreshments, carnival rides, and sidewalk sales from crafters and merchants, than ever before. Homewood Days is scheduled for July 10, 11, and 12.

Big changes have been

in the event similar to how Starry Nights concerts are set-up. The event will have six entrances to control access to the grounds.

Although gates will be staffed by members of the Homewood Police Association during all hours, everyone will be given a bracelet and allowed in for FREE to stay as long as they like if they enter between the hours of 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Children under 12, when accompanied by an adult, are free. After 4:00 PM, everyone 13 or older will be charged \$5.00.

Lakes Bank, Comcast, and The Southtown Star) will have live entertainment throughout. Friday kicks-off with the Battle of the Bands, which is coming back to Homewood Days. The winning band will not only play on Sunday but go on to compete on a regional level. The evening entertainment will feature outstanding bands such as BBI, The Madison All Stars, Xtra Xtra, Bernie Glim, Tin Horse, and TNT.

Back by popular demand, Homewood Idol kicks-off on Saturday as the preliminary

children's entertainment such as Bobby Hunt "Circus Boy", Libby Green-Puppet Show, Magic Show by Jim Jenson, and a interactive family game show, dance party and more.

During the event, costumed-characters will stroll the streets of Homewood. Fest goers may see several of their favorite super heroes, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and maybe even Elvis Presley.

Everyday at 4:00 PM on the Karaoke Stage at Ridge Road and Harwood Avenue, enter to win



made to the event as a result of feedback from Homewood Days patrons, residents, vendors, and Village staff. The Homewood Area Chamber, who hosts this event each year, believes the changes will enhance this event, keeping it Homewood's favorite family-friendly festival.

For starters, Homewood Days will be open later, closing at 10:00 PM instead of 9:00 PM each day. The event's hours of operation are Friday and Saturday from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM and Sunday from noon to 10:00 PM.

The extended hours accompany the Chamber's decision to fence-

Because of the new general admission charge (only after 4:00 PM) the "liquor bracelets" have been discontinued and will be replaced with an "Adult Bracelet" for those over 21 at no additional cost. The bracelet will be given at the gate, where IDs will be checked.

The three days of fun in downtown Homewood will be bigger and better than ever. The three stages (sponsored by Great

rounds get started on the Southtown Star sponsored stage and the ever popular finals wrap up Sunday on the main stage sponsored by Comcast. This year's winner will be invited to perform in front of hundreds once again, at the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District's Starry Nights concert series.

Each day is packed with

the food eating contest.

Crafter Alley on Martin Avenue will be open for all hours of operation where artisans from throughout the Midwest will showcase their handmade jewelry, wall hangings, candles, photography, and more.

"We are always looking to improve the event and want to ensure it remains the great family and neighborhood experience it has always been," states Bill Frank, chairman of the Homewood Days Committee.

For more information about the St. James Homewood Days, visit [homewoodareachamber.com](http://homewoodareachamber.com), or call the Chamber at (708) 206-3384.

# BUSINESS NEWS

## Aurelio's Pizza Celebrates 50 Years in Homewood *by Allisa Opyd, Homewood Economic Development Committee*

Homewood has many wonderful amenities—Blue Ribbon Schools, park district programs, and year round events. However, there is another Homewood staple; it is a place where many reunions occur, especially Homewood-Flossmoor graduates when they come to visit. This Homewood staple, of course, is Aurelio's Pizza. Aurelio's Pizza is celebrating their 50th Anniversary with much fun and excitement planned. The Aurelio's family started the anniversary celebration April 21 – June 26 with "Around the Chain in 80 Days". The Aurelio's team is visiting all 43 locations, in six states, along with 94.7 WLS FM for games, music, and delicious pizza. Join the festivities in Homewood, June 24, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

When Joe Aurelio first opened his restaurant, in 1959, it was a small storefront on Ridge Road. As his reputation for great Italian food started to spread, it was time to find a larger space to better serve his dedicated patrons. Joe opened his new location, on Harwood Avenue, in 1977. This location is considered the largest Pizzeria in the world, with seating for 500. Often there will be a Chicago tour bus that will stop by to show pizza lovers the largest pizzeria and enjoy the famous pizza.

The Aurelio's family has built an impressive reputation for their delicious pizza; however, they are also known for their philanthropic generosity. Giving back to communities, such as their sponsorships, is a priority in their legacy. Patrons of Aurelio's can be a part of the Aurelio's legacy by giving to the "50th Anniversary Legacy Brick Program". Participants can purchase bricks to be laid in the front of the Homewood restaurant. Bricks are 4x4 at \$125 and 8x8 at \$200 and can be engraved with family's names or a special message. All proceeds to benefit the Jennifer Fallick Cancer Support Center. There are a limited amount of bricks available, do not wait to participate in this incredible program.

August 20, will be a special day at Aurelio's Pizza. It is the day, 50 years ago, Joe Aurelio opened his restaurant, in Homewood. In celebrating the 50th anniversary, the Aurelio family and team will unveil the "Legacy Bricks" in front

of the restaurant with the help of Village President, Richard Hofeld. After the unveiling, there will be more celebration and what a better way to mark the years in business, and to thank their customers than to roll pizza prices back to 1959. Patrons can take advantage of this one time celebration offer by dining in the restaurant or carry-out.

If you have not tasted Aurelio's famous pizza, go to the restaurant

at 18162 Harwood Avenue, or call (708) 798-8050. For more information on the celebrations, go to [www.aureliospizza.com](http://www.aureliospizza.com). Also, check out on "You Tube" all the exciting places Aurelio's "Pizza Man" has been during the celebration. Do not forget to join the "Around the Chain in 80 Days" festivities in Homewood, June 24, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM and August 20, for the "Legacy Brick" unveiling and the roll back to 1959, pizza prices!



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## Emerald Ash Borer Update

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been positively identified throughout Homewood's ash tree population. While the EAB does not pose any public health risk, it is lethal for Homewood's ash tree population, reports Village Arborist Jim Tresoouthick. As a result, a comprehensive management plan has been designed and implemented to reduce costs associated with managing the destructive pest. The Village will remove 2,600 ash trees from parkways. Reforestation



is intended to replace each cut down tree within twelve years of removal. The Village does not inspect or remove ash trees on private property, nor dispose of wood waste as a result of ash tree removal. Residents suspecting EAB infestation should contact the University of Illinois Extension office at (708) 720-7500 and request the assistance of a Master Gardener. Helpful tools for identifying ash trees or the Emerald Ash Borer can also be found on the Village website: homesweethomewood.com.

## South Suburban Family Shelter's NEW Consumer and Electronics Recycling Program

The South Suburban Family Shelter, a not-for-profit organization that provides comprehensive services to families who experience domestic violence, has introduced a consumer electronic recycling program to help with their fundraising efforts.

The recycling program is for items such as:

- Ink jet cartridges- no laser or toner cartridges
- Laptop or Notebook Computers-hard drive will be immediately removed and destroyed. *No desktop/tower computers or monitors accepted.*
- iPods
- Digital Cameras

All items must include batteries. Working order is preferred, but not necessary.

Accessories such as chargers, cases, earpieces are not needed as

these items typically do not contain toxic materials and can generally be disposed of with normal household waste.

All proceeds from donating these electronic items benefit the services and programs provided by South Suburban Family Shelter to victims of domestic violence and their families. These include: 24-Hour Hotline, Emergency Shelter, Counseling for adult victims and their children, Abuser Intervention program, Medical Advocacy, Court Advocacy, Prevention program, Professional trainings. All victim services are provided free of charge and all services are available in English and Spanish.

Electronic items may be dropped off at 18139 Harwood Avenue. For more information, contact Vicki Meilach at (708) 794-2140, ext.303.

**Fall Fest will be held on Saturday, September 26**



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# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

## Single Family Rehab Program

The Village participates in the Single Family Rehab Program administered by Chicago Southland Development, Inc. (CSDI) designed to assist homeowners in the rehabilitation of their homes to bring them into compliance with building, fire and health safety codes. Eligible activities include:

- Electrical Repair and Service Upgrades
- Plumbing Repairs and Fixture Replacement
- Interior Repairs
- Furnace/Boiler Repair or Replacement
- Flood Control and Prevention
- Drywall and Plastering
- Roof Repair or Replacement

- Insulation and Weatherization
- Replacement of Windows and Doors
- Siding, Gutters, Fascia and Soffits
- Porch Repairs
- Handicap Accessibility for Disabled Persons

The Single Family Rehab Program funds are provided on a no interest basis to those who qualify. Any homeowner whose income falls within the guidelines set by Cook County and has owned their home for over one year may be eligible. Residents whose homes are in need of assistance are asked to contact CSDI directly at (708) 922-4600.

## 2010 Census

As we approach the year 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau is working diligently to get every person across the United States counted. The census is taken every ten years to count people living in the U.S. The census count determines the federal funding levels for each state, the state funding levels for each municipality, the legislative districts, and number of representatives at the state and federal level. In addition, the census provides the demographic data we use for economic development. As

you can see, it is very important that every resident participate to create a complete count.

Currently, U.S. Census employees are canvassing the Village to verify addresses and locations to prepare for the complete count which will occur during 2010. In order to promote the complete we will be creating a committee. If anyone is interested in joining this committee they should contact President Hofeld or Beth Barron at (708) 206-3386.

## Portable Temporary Storage Containers

Several years ago the Village Board passed an ordinance regulating the use of portable temporary storage containers. These containers are used primarily when people move into a home or when there is ongoing renovation/construction and personal items must be stored outside the residence.

The ordinance states the following:

- Portable temporary storage containers are allowed in any single family residential district provided they meet the following conditions:
  - Only one container may be located on a residential property at a time;
  - No portion of any container may extend onto the public right-of-way, including but not limited to sidewalks, parkways, street, or alleys;
  - The container shall not exceed eight (8) feet in width, twelve (12) feet in length, and eight (8) feet in height or 768 cubic feet;
  - The container must be located on an impervious surface;
  - Placement of a portable temporary storage container shall be limited to fourteen (14) days per residential lot, per calendar year; and

- The container must be locked and secured when not being loaded or unloaded.

As there may be special circumstances in using a portable temporary storage container, a provision has been included in the ordinance that allows the Village Board to approve containers that exceed the allowable number, allowable size, or length of time.

If there are any questions regarding the use of these containers, please contact the Community Development Department at (708) 206-3385.



## SHOP HOME SWEET HOMEWOOD

*We welcome the following businesses, which have either recently opened or relocated in Homewood:*

**Shell Gas Station/  
Mr. Submarine**  
17945 Halsted Street

**N. Renee Boutique  
& Nail Salon**  
3021 183rd Street

**Balagio**  
17501 Dixie Highway

**Weight Watchers**  
18426 Governors Highway

**Van Moody  
School of Music**  
18320 Kedzie Avenue

**Ravisloe Country Club**  
18231 Park Avenue

**Signature Salon  
Barber & Spa**  
3025 183rd Street

**Tokyo Nail & Day Spa**  
18733 Dixie Highway

**Wireless and Beyond**  
801 Maple Avenue

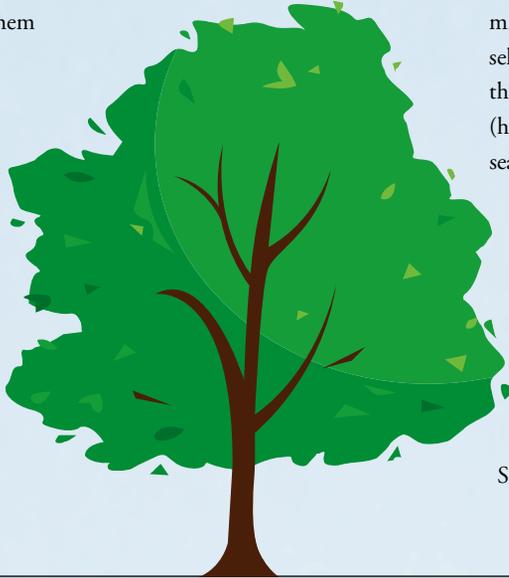
**Computer Exchange**  
17538 Dixie Highway

*Please join us in welcoming this business to Homewood. Stop in and say hello, and don't forget to Shop Homewood.*

## TreeShare Program

The Village of Homewood's TreeShare Program offers its residents a chance to purchase selected trees and plant them anywhere on their property (private or parkway), as long as there are no utility conflicts involved. The Village splits the cost with the purchasing resident, giving residents a savings of 50 percent. The Village will deliver to your parkway, with planting

instructions attached. We are sorry, but the Village cannot plant



the trees for you. Trees go on sale the beginning of September, with delivery to the parkway mid-October. Tree species will be selected, and information regarding the species available will be on-line (homesweethomewood.com – search engine Tree Committee, TreeShare Fall 09) starting late August through the month of September. A very diverse mix of native, as well as non-native trees will be available, limit two per residential address. Tree are to be purchased at Village Hall, Customer Service window.

## Shop Home Sweet Homewood

We want to thank the following businesses for appearing on Meet Your Merchants at recent Homewood Village Board Meetings:

**South Suburban Family Shelter**

**Ravisloe Country Club**  
18231 Park Avenue

**The Art Corner**  
18703 Dixie Highway

**Glenwood School for Boys and Girls**  
Glenwood

**Cancer Support Center**  
2028 Elm Road

**Addus HealthCare**  
2018 Ridge Road

**Steinmarch Development**  
Bretz Drive

*Please stop in and say hello, and don't forget to Shop Homewood.*

## FREE Branch Chipping

The Public Works Department offers an eco-friendly service that recycles unwanted tree branches and brush into chemical-free, natural mulch. This service is offered the first Saturday of each month through November from

8:00 AM to noon at the Municipal Service Center located at 17755 Ashland Avenue. This service is for residents only—proof of residency is required. Commercial drop-offs are not accepted. Maximum branch and log diameter cannot exceed

eight inches. Tree stumps and construction material will not be accepted. Evergreens, bushes, and shrubs cannot be chipped. Check the calendar on the Village website for Saturdays that fall on holidays, or call Public Works at 206-3470.

## Mosquito Control

Mosquitoes are a nuisance and may carry diseases, such as West Nile virus. The best way to prevent mosquito-borne illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites:

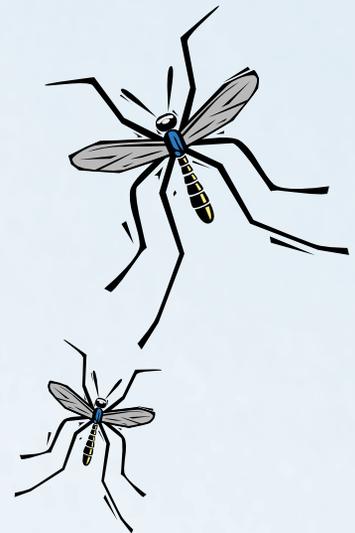
- Remove old tires, buckets, drums, or any water-holding containers
- Fill in or drain low places in the yard, e.g. puddles, ruts
- Keep drains, ditches and

culverts free of weeds and trash, so water will drain properly

- Keep roof gutters free of leaves and other debris
- Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater
- Drain unused swimming pools
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water
- Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store indoors when not in use
- Change the water in birdbaths, plant pots, and drip trays at least

once each week

- Store boats covered or upside down or remove rainwater weekly
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house
- Repair window screens
- When outdoors between dusk and dawn, use personal protection measures to prevent mosquito bites (proper use of insect repellent and appropriate clothing)



**Homewood, Flossmoor Glenwood's Community Auction will be returning soon. Check the Village website, e-Newswire, and next Village Key for details.**

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# BUSINESSES

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For more information contact Pam Stasil at 708.891.0744

# HOMWOOD THROUGH THE YEARS

*Homewood Through The Years is a new 256 page hardcover history of Homewood written by former village trustee Jim Wright who currently is president of the Homewood Historical Society. Publication of the book was made possible through generous contributions from Aurelio's Pizza and the Great Lakes Bank and all proceeds from the sale of the book will go to benefit the Homewood Historical Society. The book is filled with over 250 photographs and is available for purchase for \$30 at the Homewood Village Hall, Homewood Library, Suzie's Hallmark and the Homewood Historical Society Museum, 2035 -183rd Street. For more information contact 708-799-1896. In this and future editions of the Key, excerpts from the book will be printed chronicling Homewood's history. In this issue read about the origins of Ravisloe Country Club, which went public this April after 108 years as a private course.*

The success of the Homewood (now Flossmoor) Country Club spawned the development of other golf courses in the area. In the summer of 1901 another group of Chicago businessmen, this one led by Solomon Styx, initiated efforts to locate land to establish their own club. Styx had been bitten by the golf bug and convinced many of his colleagues, most of whom were members of the Standard Club of Chicago, to join him in pursuing this leisure pastime.

The first parcel of interest they looked at was owned by a Dutch farmer named Ravisloot. His property was located on 147th Street and was bisected by the Calumet River. It was initially thought the river would serve as a recreational amenity for swimming and boating and that it would make a fine water hazard. The group soon found the water was too dirty for swimming, the river was prone to flooding and the costs of building a bridge to support course maintenance equipment was too expensive. This site soon lost favor, although, prospective members continued to call the proposed club by the Ravisloot name. Some, however, thought the ending of the name too "guttural" and suggested

changing to the softer sounding Ravislow or Ravisloe. The latter was agreed upon and eventually became the club's official name

Another location being looked at, and the one finally selected, was the Sidney Briggs farm in Homewood. The farmstead proved to be just as attractive as the Ravisloot site. It was dotted with old elm and maple trees, which would provide an attractive appearance, and much needed shade for the golfers. Much of the acreage was in pasture, which would allow the course to be developed with minimal effort and expense and the farm was located just west of the Illinois Central tracks, which would allow members easy access from Chicago via I.C. suburban passenger trains. As the I.C. station was on the east side of the tracks, there was concern for the safety of members who would have to cross the tracks to walk to and from the course. This objection was overcome when the railroad agreed to construct a pedestrian overpass for the use of club members. In 1902, the railroad

to work laying out the course and improving the grounds. Five holes were playable by the fall of 1901 and additional holes were developed in succeeding years until all 18 holes were completed.

A small cottage located on the course grounds served as the first clubhouse. The cottage was formerly the home of Mr. Briggs's parents, and being so small it only afforded members a place to change and hang their clothing. For meals, members would bring their own picnic lunches, dine at the taverns in town or visit an industrious farm family living near the club who sold

the course underwent a significant redesign, which was completed in 1913.

In the fall of that year, Ravisloe hosted an exhibition match between the English professionals Harry Vardon and Edward Ray and local amateurs "Chick" Evans and Warren Wood. Vardon and Ray complimented the course as being one of the best in the country and suggested a number of changes to make it even more challenging. The club hired renowned golf architect Donald Ross who implemented these and other changes in his redesign of the course completed between 1916 and 1920.



*Ravisloe's Clubhouse and Mens Locker (right)*

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“Ravisloe hosted an exhibition match between the English professionals Harry Vardon and Edward Ray and local amateurs ‘Chick’ Evans and Warren Wood.”

---

further enhanced service for golfers when it inaugurated a Golf Special, an express train, which ran from the Randolph Street station downtown to Flossmoor making stops at the country clubs along the way.

Negotiations with Mr. Briggs proved fruitful and by August 1901, 101 acres of his farm were purchased with an option to buy additional land if needed. With this, Ravisloe Country Club became a reality and members quickly set

chicken dinners for 50 cents apiece. Construction of a larger wood frame clubhouse was completed in 1902.

Early Ravisloe members included many famous names like Hart, Schaffner, Marx, Spiegel and Julius Rosenwald who would go on to become the President and CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Company.

The club flourished and in 1910 a fifty-five acre parcel was added to the course. With this addition,

About the time the initial course redesign was taking place, the club constructed a new men's locker room building. With the completion of this building, members realized the inadequacies of the main clubhouse and plans were made to build a new one. Construction of a large Spanish Revival structure, the current clubhouse, was started in 1916 and when completed in 1917 was one of the most luxurious in the country.



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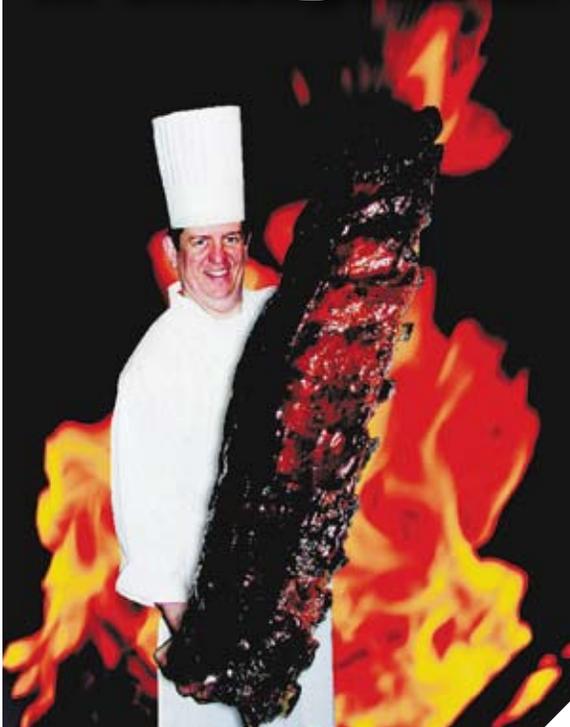
The Village Key is circulated quarterly to all residents and businesses in the Village of Homewood, Illinois. Comments or questions can be directed to:  
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