

Winter 2007



H O M E W O O D

VILLAGE KEY

# *Holiday Lights in Homewood*

Welcome in the holidays as we turn on the lights in Homewood ...  
... at the annual tree lighting ceremony in Irwin Park.

Enjoy downtown holiday shopping by horse-drawn sleigh rides ...  
... carolers and costumed characters throughout the town.

Yes, Bedford Falls still exists ...  
... only, it's Home Sweet Homewood!

The evening of  
December 7th  
5 o'clock to 9 o'clock



[www.homesweethomewood.com](http://www.homesweethomewood.com)

## *Inside this Issue*

Girls Night Out

Radiance on Ridge

New Year's Eve  
Balloon Drop

Chocolate Fest 08'

Beautification Awards

Downtown Public Parking

Special Feature  
"A Soldier's Story"

# Community CALENDAR

*December...  
Light Up Homewood  
For the Holidays!*

- December 6** ..... Girls Night Out, Downtown Homewood 5 PM to 9 PM, 206-3375
- December 7** ..... Holiday Lights in Homewood & Radiance on Ridge Downtown Homewood / Irwin Park 5 PM to 9 PM, 206-3375
- December 8** ..... Breakfast with Santa, Irwin Center 9 AM & 10:15 AM, 957-0300
- December 21** ..... Winter Begins
- December 24, 25** ..... Christmas Eve & Christmas Day (Village Offices Closed)
- December 31** ..... New Year Celebration Park District Auditorium 11 AM to 1 PM
- January 1** ..... New Year's Day Holiday (Village Offices Closed)
- January 21** ..... Martin Luther King Day (Village Offices Closed)
- February 1** ..... Daddy-Daughter Date Night H-F Sports Complex, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, 957-0300
- February 14** ..... Valentine's Day
- February 16** ..... Chocolate Fest, Park District Auditorium 11 AM to 2 PM, 206-3375
- February 18** ..... Presidents' Day (Village Offices Closed)

## Board, Commission & Committee MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Village Hall, 2020 Chestnut Road, at the times and locations listed unless otherwise announced. A monthly schedule of all meetings is posted in the lobby of the Village Hall.

- Appearance Commission**  
1st Wednesday at 7:30 PM, Board Room
- Beautification Committee**  
3rd Wednesday at 7:30 PM, Conference Room
- Cable TV Commission**  
2nd Monday at 7:00 PM, Conference Room
- Committee of the Whole**  
1st & 3rd Tuesday as scheduled at 7:30 PM, Board Room
- Community Relations Commission**  
1st Monday at 7:00 PM, Conference Room
- Economic Development Committee**  
1st Tuesday at 7:30 AM, Conference Room
- Heritage Committee**  
3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM, Conference Room
- Homewood Rail Committee**  
1st Wednesday at 7:00 PM, Conference Room
- Plan Commission**  
2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:30 PM, Board Room
- Police Chief's Citizens Advisory Committee**  
4th Monday at 7:00 PM, Police Conference Room
- Senior Advisory Committee**  
3rd Monday/Odd Months at 7:00 PM, Conference Room
- Stormwater Resource Committee**  
7:00 PM, Board Room, TBA (Call: 206.3470)
- Tree Committee**  
2nd Wednesday at 7:00 PM, Conference Room
- Veterans Committee**  
3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM, Police Training Room
- Village Board of Trustees**  
2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM, Board Room
- Zone Board of Appeals**  
2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30 PM, Board Room

## 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 Gail Bibb  
Trustee Ralph DeWitt  
Trustee Ray Robertson  
Trustee Jim Garofalo  
Trustee Thomas W. Kataras  
Trustee Glenn Tienstra

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

## President's Message



*Richard Hofeld*

Richard A. Hofeld  
Village President

Winter has now set in and winter-time activities abound. Outdoor recreation includes sledding and ice skating. After hard-freezes, ice fishing can be done on the Izaak Walton Preserve lakes. All you need

My most recent Lab is a Hurricane Katrina rescued dog and she is still mystified by snow! Holly, named by the shelter for Holly Beach, Louisiana, where she was found, follows the other girls and

Hall. The next event will be our family New Year's Eve celebration. This is held at 11 o'clock in the morning with the ballroom-drop at noon. In that way kids, families and seniors

*Enjoy our Homewood winter, whether you prefer active or quiet recreation and of course participating in our local events.*

is your membership card to be able to do so. I, myself, prefer hiking along the snow-covered trails with my four Labs as they sniff and study all the raccoon, rabbit, fox, coyote and deer prints in the snow.

sleeps like a baby when we get home. Life is good for her now – even with the cold weather and snow!

Winter-time Village-sponsored activities are always held in the Auditorium, next to the Village

can celebrate New Year's Eve 12 hours before the new year's actual arrival. Horns, hats, entertainment, magic acts and snacks all add to the fun-filled party. This event began

*President's Message  
continued on page 4*



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*President's Message*  
continued from page 3

in 2000, the arrival of the new millennium, and was so well received we have done it every year since. Come on out and enjoy Homewood's spirit with family and friends at 11 o'clock New Year's Eve day.

Our second winter-time event is our Chocolate Fest. It is held February 16th (we try to hold most of our Village events on the 3rd Saturday of the month), also at the Auditorium, and this is a Choco-holic's delight – samples from many confectioners and ice cream shops around. Carefully judged baked chocolate entries, which anyone can enter, have almost reached the Food Channel's level for extraordinary chocolate creations! Last year's judges had a very difficult time as most looked

professional and tasted even better!

These activities are sponsored by the hard-working members of our Community Relations Committee. This group plans each event and works hard to bring them about. They are the driving force behind these activities; however, additional volunteers are always needed on the day of the event. If you, or a family member are able to "lend a hand" at the New Year's Eve or Chocolate Fest celebrations, please let us know. Call Community Information Coordinator Rachael Jones at 206-3375 and sign-up to volunteer. You'll be working with a great group of people and will delight in watching the festivities and those attending have a

great time - very satisfying from a volunteer's view-point.

Enjoy our Homewood winter, whether you prefer active or quiet recreation and of course participating in our local events. But, as much as winter is beautiful we'll still look forward to spring!



*Community News*

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Radiance on Ridge**

Ridge Road will be a glow during the community tree decorating contest in Irwin Park. The H-F Park District offers trees for community groups, families and friends to decorate with their own style in an effort to light up Irwin Park during the holiday season. Call the Park District by December 5th to adopt a tree. Judging will take place on December 6th and winners announced during Holiday Lights in Homewood Celebration (December 7th). The cost for each tree is \$25.00 per resident; \$37.50 per group. The cost includes electricity and tree. Call the Park District to purchase 957-0300.

**Holiday Lights in Homewood**

Friday, December 7, 5 – 9 PM  
Downtown Homewood and Irwin Park  
The Village of Homewood,

Homewood Lions Club, Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce, H-F Park District, and Homewood's downtown businesses invite you to welcome in the holidays at the annual tree lighting ceremony. Downtown businesses will have evening specials as shoppers arrive by horse-drawn sleighs. Enjoy holiday music on street corners, and holiday characters throughout the town. At 7 PM, Santa will arrive at Irwin Park by sleigh just in time to flip the switch on the holiday and community-sponsored trees. Stay toasty by the fire pit while you sip hot chocolate and spread holiday cheer at Irwin Park.

**New Year's Eve Day Celebration**

Monday, December 31  
11 AM to 1 PM  
H-F Park District Auditorium  
The world may tune in to Time Square (NYC) at midnight

but the Village of Homewood holds its own countdown and balloon drop – at the stroke of noon – on December 31st. The event is planned so that the entire family can bid farewell to the departing year, and usher in the new together – with horns, hats, and balloons.

Festivities start promptly at 11 AM with Bob Bohm's Family Magic Show. At the stroke of noon an enormous cluster of balloons will descend from the ceiling to officially start the celebration of the New Year! Local eateries will provide festive treats. The event is free to everyone and is sponsored by the Community Relations Commission.

**Chocolate Fest 08'and the Annual Bake-Off Contest**

Saturday, February 16, 2008  
11 AM to 2 PM  
H-F Park District Auditorium

Join the Community Relations Commission as they celebrate the "food of the gods", sampling scrumptious chocolate creations from renowned chocolatiers. Chocolate vendors will offer the latest and most decadent chocolate recipes. The Commission will host its annual bake-off contest where amateur chefs will compete for the best chocolate recipe. Bake-off applications will be available at Village Hall or online in January. Enjoy classical live music by the Chicago Gargoyle Brass Band, demonstrations from professional dessert chefs, and delicious activities for the entire family.

Visit the Village website for information on all of the events: home-



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**H-F Park District Winter Happenings**

**Breakfast With Santa**  
Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 AM & 10 AM  
Irwin Center, 18120 S. Highland, Homewood

Music, merriment and wishes for holiday toys will be found at Santa's Brunch. Children can visit with Santa and enjoy doughnuts, milk and orange juice. Get in the spirit with a sing-a-long! Children must be accompanied by a paying adult. Picture of child with Santa is included. Advanced registration only.  
Limit: 100/session.  
Age: 6 years & under  
Times: 9-10 AM & 10:15-11:15 AM  
Fee: \$5 R / \$8 NR; Children under 1 year Free

**Daddy-Daughter Date Night**  
Friday, Feb. 1  
6:30 PM & 8:30 PM

H-F Sports Complex, 18211 S. Aberdeen, Homewood

Free up your Friday for a date with your little sweetheart! Enjoy dancing to Dad's oldies and your daughter's top 10. There will be refreshments, as well as complimentary corsages and a take-home keepsake. Remember the special evening with Polaroid photos available for \$2. Volunteers needed! Call 957-0300 to help out.  
Limit: 350/session.  
Fee: \$15 R / \$23 NR per couple; \$10 R / \$15 NR additional child.  
Age Time  
4-8 6:30-8 PM  
9-13 8:30-10 PM

**H-F Racquet & Fitness Club's 35th Anniversary Celebration**  
Get ready to "Leap into the

Future" with the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club (2920 W. 183rd St., Homewood) on Leap Day: Friday, Feb. 29, 2008. That day the Club will kick off its 35th anniversary celebration with a membership party. The following week, watch for special events, programs and open houses so everyone can join in the fun. The Club will recognize its history, while it moves forward with a new look, new logo and new equipment. The Club — with its expansive fitness center, 10 indoor tennis courts and indoor pool — will continue improving for you and the community. Watch your mailbox for your open-house invitation and stay tuned for all the events at the Club's website: hfracquetandfitness.com. 799-1323.

**Girls Night Out**  
in Downtown Homewood!  
Thursday, December 6  
5 PM - 9 PM  
Grab your girlfriends and come out to shop! All shops are walking distance from each other!  
• Discounts  
• Raffles & treats...OH MY!  
Call Village Hall for details...

### SUMMER EVENTS RECAPPED!

#### Dog Days of Summer 2007

Frisbee dogs, decked-out dogs, and soggy dogs packed out Irwin Park for the Community Relations Commission's annual Dog Days of Summer event (August). While the rain came down, hundreds of dog lovers flooded the park to enjoy pup-themed entertainment and activities. From the annual Pooch Parade, commanding more than 100 participants, to Jumpin' Jack the Maniac, a talented member of America's Frisbee Dogs.

The H-F Park District and Homewood Church sponsored crafts and games for the kids. Ann

Pelliconi and her line dancin' crew rolled out their fancy footwork. Nine unique vendors offered the latest in specialty dog products and services - even gourmet foods. Everyone wanted a photo with their four-legged friend aboard Pup-Peroni's "pupped out" Vespa. And animal lovers learned how to support the efforts of area rescue groups.

Dog Days is becoming one of the Chicago Southland's largest pet-friendly events. The Community Relations Commission has truly expanded this event, drawing

regional and national sponsors and vendors, along with pet-lovers from throughout the Chicagoland.

The Commission seeks to promote Homewood beyond its borders as an exceptional community - a desirable destination for business and the best place to raise a family.

This year, the Commission attracted many generous sponsors: H-F Pet Sitters, Saddies Doggy Day Care, Heritage Community



Bank, Petco, Chicagoland Tails Magazine, Pup-Peroni, and Let the Fur Fly. Nine vendors participated and four area rescue groups.

Don't miss - even if it rains - Dog Days of Summer 2008 scheduled for Saturday, August 16 at Irwin Park. Watch for upcoming de-TAILS!

#### Fall Fest and Homewood's Annual Chili Cook-Off

The Community Relations Commission hosted Fall Fest and the annual Chili Cook-Off in an effort to bring residents together while raising awareness and monetary support for a local not-for-profit organization.

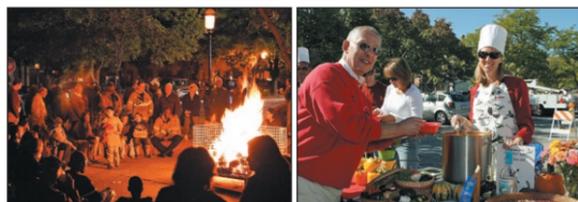
Residents strolled Hickory Road on a perfect autumn day, meeting new members of the community and rekindling friendships with familiar faces. Each year, the Com-

mission strives to enhance this event as a community gathering. The activities and entertainment are all centered around family and the local food vendors represent the different flavors of the town.

The Chili Cook-Off has always served as a fundraising event. It started 12 years ago by John and Nance Beele as a community fundraiser for the Cancer Support Center. The Village picked up the

event when it grew in size and cost. In keeping with the spirit of the event, the Community Relations Commission, along with Village President Rich Hofeld, select a local not-for-profit to showcase and raise the necessary funds for the organization to continue their

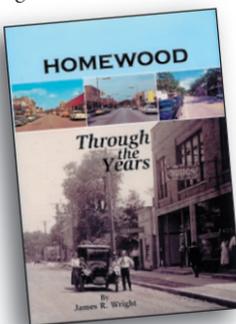
service to the community. Remember, Fall Fest is not just about the chili. It's a colorful festival, celebrating the Village's greatest assets: its people, businesses, and talent.



#### Homewood Historical Society Offers Holiday Gifts

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for a past, current or future Homewood resident? Why not give a copy of Homewood Through

the Years. Homewood Through the Years will be a gift that will be treasured for years to come.



In addition to Homewood Through the Years, the historical society offers a variety of other holiday gift ideas including holiday cards, Homewood coverlets, cookbooks and a new commemorative bronze medallion. To purchase these items, visit the museum Tuesdays or Saturdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m., or contact 708-799-1896 for more information.

Street. Homewood Through the Years will be a gift that will be treasured for years to come.



#### Unique Holiday Gift Idea

Looking for a unique and memorable holiday gift? Why not give a mural. Murals for the Homewood METRA pedestrian tunnel are still available for sponsorship. These beautiful, one-of-a-kind murals were created by students from Homewood - Flossmoor High School. They depict historical Homewood landmarks; reproduced into 3' x 5' full color panels to decoratively adorn the commuter tunnel. The mural designs are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. For residents or businesses

interested in participating in this program, visit the Village website to view the murals and the Homewood Rail Committee Sponsorship Agreement. Call Community Information Coordinator Rachael Jones at 206-3375 for details.

The Mural Sponsorship Program is a beautification program for the Homewood METRA pedestrian tunnel, administered by the Rail Committee. The program combines the appreciation and cultivation of public art, celebration of the railway, and promotion of local businesses.

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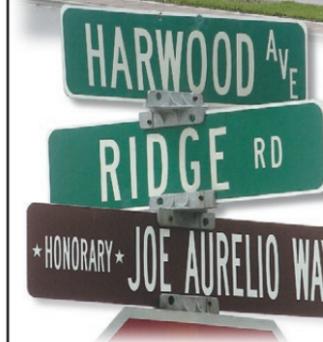
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## New Officer

Kelly Kummelehne joined the Homewood Police Department on August 27th as a full-time police officer. Officer Kummelehne grew up in Matteson and currently resides there with her family. Officer Kummelehne is a graduate of Rich Central High School. She has an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Prairie State College and a Bachelors degree in Criminal

Justice from Governors State University. Officer Kummelehne served as a police officer with the Hazel Crest Police Department for five years and worked as a dispatcher prior to that. Officer Kummelehne is certified as a Field Training Officer, D.A.R.E. officer, School Resource Officer, Evidence Technician, and Juvenile Officer.

## Winter Driving Tips:

The best advice to driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle adverse road conditions:

- Decrease speed and leave plenty of room to stop
- Brake gently to avoid skidding
- Turn on headlights to increase your visibility
- Keep your headlights and windshield clean

- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first
- Don't pass snowplows
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all road condition during severe weather
- Leave plenty of room between vehicles for braking during snow conditions

## Holiday Tree Care & Safety

Holiday trees that are not kept moist can present a very serious fire hazard. Dried out trees can be totally consumed by fire in less than 30 seconds. Take special precautions when buying your tree. Trees with brown shedding needles should be rejected. If the tree looks green and fresh, take a long needle and bend it between your thumb and forefinger. If it snaps, the tree is too

dry. Look for trees with needles that bend. When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is dry.

- When you bring a tree home, cut about an inch off the end of the trunk. This will remove the dried end and allow the tree to absorb water. Make checkerboard cuts into the base at different angles to make a greater surface for water absorption.

## Electronic Neighborhood Watch Program

Like the traditional Neighborhood Watch Program, the Electronic Neighborhood Watch Program is an innovative supplement that is aimed at reducing crime in the community at the grass roots level. Safety messages will be sent to participating e-mail recipients. Participants in the Electronic Neighborhood Watch Program will have access to information from the Police Department on the dissemination of criminal activity

information (i.e. a series of crimes in a neighborhood); requests for assistance in solving crimes (i.e. leads, additional follow-up information); the solicitation of information on unreported crimes such as when the Police Department becomes aware of criminal activity in the area which might not have been reported previously; the quelling of unsubstantiated information or rumors regarding criminal activity; crime prevention tips for citizens; informa-

## Snow Removal

When clearing your own sidewalks or driveways, it is illegal to deposit the snow on a public place such as a street or sidewalk. It is usually best to wait to clear your

driveway until after Village snowplows have cleared the street so you don't have to clear your driveway entrance multiple times.

## Chimney and Fireplace Safety

Have your chimney inspected by a certified professional chimney sweep prior to the start of every heating season, and cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not properly cleaned.

Chimney connections and chimney flues should also be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned periodically. Burn only wood, and be sure the wood stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect that floor from heat and hot coals.

Always protect your home and your family by using a sturdy fireplace screen when burning fires.

Remember to burn only wood – NEVER burn paper or pine boughs, which can float out the chimney and ignite a neighboring home.

Keep your chimney clear from accumulations of leaves, or other debris that can clog with time. A clogged chimney can cause a poorly-burning fire to result in poisonous fumes and smoke coming back into the house.

A chimney cap can prevent roof fires, inhibit down drafts, and keep leaves, animals, and birds out of chimneys. Dispose of ashes in a METAL container with a tight fitting lid. The container should then be set on a non combustible floor or on the ground away from combustible materials.

- Always turn off lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave your home. A short circuit in any of this equipment could cause a fire. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. Damaged insulation in lighting on a metallic tree could cause the entire tree to be charged with electricity. To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a metal

tree, never fastened onto it.

- Keep children away from light sets and electrical decorations. All lights present the problem of shock and casualty hazards for curious kids. When stringing the lights on your tree, be careful how you place them. Keep all bulbs turned away from gifts and paper ornaments. Lights in windows can cause curtains and drapes to ignite.

## Crime Prevention Meetings

The Police Department continues to be proactive in keeping Homewood safe and residents informed through Neighborhood Crime Prevention Meetings. These meetings provide a place for residents to speak candidly with members of the department about safety concerns. The department is able to learn from residents how to better address patrolling and police work to ensure Homewood's streets remain safe and crime free. The meetings are scheduled based on feedback from Police Chief Larry Burnson, members of the Police

Chief's Advisory Committee, and concerned residents. They can take place at the station, Village Hall, or various facilities throughout the community: Marie Irwin Community Center, Dolphin Lake Clubhouse, or the Homewood Public Library.

Members of the Police Department who conduct the meetings are Police Chief Larry Burnson, Deputy Chiefs Dale Gustafson and Jim Gannon, along with Officer Curt Weist, and Sergeant Detective Dave Owens. Slideshows and materials are distributed to participants

regarding personal protection, burglary prevention, and identity theft. Reports on recent crimes in the area are also provided. Special Crime Prevention Meetings are also held for Homewood's business owners to discuss any recent criminal activities or current fraud investigations. Residents and business owners are encouraged to sign up for the Police Department's Electronic Neighborhood Watch Program so they can be notified when a meeting is scheduled.

## Adopt a Fire Hydrant

The Fire Department asks all Homewood residents to help keep the fire hydrants in their yard free from snow during the winter months – locating a hydrant quickly is crucial in emergency situations. Contact Public Works if the hydrant is in need of repair: 206-3470.

## Keep the Wreath Red

This holiday season, be sure to practice fire safety. The holiday wreath on the front of the fire station will contain red bulbs throughout the season, unless a holiday decoration-related fire occurs in Homewood. For each

incident, a white bulb will be added. Let's Keep the Wreath Red!

The United States Fire Administration has holiday safety recommendations at their web site: [www.usfa.dhs.gov/safety/tips/holiday.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/safety/tips/holiday.shtm)

## Vehicle Snow/Tow Ordinance

It is mandatory that citizens remove their cars from the street for safe plowing when snowfall exceeds two (2) inches. The Department of Public Works continues to plow streets even after the snow has stopped. Re-

peated plowing ensures adequate removal of snow and proper salting. Do not return your vehicles to the roadway until plow trucks have ceased repeated plowing and salting. Violators are subject to ticketing and towing.

## What is Homewood-Flossmoor Peer Jury Program?

The Homewood-Flossmoor Peer Jury Program operates under the support of the Homewood and Flossmoor police departments. The program is designed to provide a meaningful and remedial method of dealing with selected juveniles without reference to the court. Peer Jury is based on the philosophy of Balance and Restorative Justice. It is about youth accountability, competency development and community safety, taking into account the referred teen, community and victim. A case is diverted to the

peer jury for hearing by a jury of teen volunteers and an adult coordinator, when (1) the referred teen admits having committed the offense; (2) the victim has input; either in person or in writing (3) the juvenile officer determines that such a diversion is appropriate; and, (4) the referred teen and his/her parent or guardian consent in writing to participate in the Peer Jury Program.

At the hearing, the charges are read and the facts of the case summarized. The referred teen is then questioned by members of the

## Emergency Preparedness

Are you prepared for winter emergencies? The following supplies are recommended:

- A battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries. These may be your only links to the outside world if electrical service is interrupted.
- Foods that do not require cooking or refrigeration are best. Include high energy foods such as dried fruit and candy.
- Extra medications and special items for babies, the disabled or elderly.

- Extra glasses or contact lenses if worn.

- Extra water in clean containers.

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways and sand to improve traction.
- Flashlights and extra batteries. Do not use candles: they are a fire hazard.

For more winter preparedness information, be sure to visit the Village website.



Peer Jury. Afterward the referred teen and his/her parent or guardian withdraw while the jury deliberates and structures an appropriate restorative consequence,

often time involving community service. The referred teen is then given a written copy of the agreement and a discharge hearing date. The referred teen can then repair the harm created by the offense and become a productive member of society. Our dedicated volun-

teers have heard over 70 cases since the program commenced in February, 2006. If you would like any more information about the Homewood-Flossmoor Peer Jury Program, please contact the Peer Jury Coordinator, Mary Therese Fazzini, at 39-8999 or via email at [mtfazzini@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtfazzini@sbcglobal.net).

# Public Works News

Department of Public Works  
-17755 South Ashland Avenue  
708.206.3470

## New Employee

Timothy Drumgole was selected to fill the position of Maintenance Worker for the Street Division in August. Tim grew

up on the south side of Chicago, and currently resides in Chicago Heights. Tim graduated from Bloom Trail High School in the

year 2000, and attended ITT Tech School in Matteson. Tim has worked in the Street Division for the last year and a half as a seasonal

employee. In his spare time, Tim enjoys playing football, basketball, bowling, and working on cars.

## Homewood's Snow Plowing Crews Are # 1

"Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow," is a favorite tune sung by Holiday Carolers, but a grueling refrain for those shoveling their winter wonderlands and for Homewood's Public Works Snow Plowing Crews who are responsible for clearing the 70 lane miles of roadway throughout the Village. So, before you pull out the shovel this year we have some important and helpful information to help this upcoming winter season "... be merry and bright."

#1 How and where you shovel snow will save you extra work and help Public Works efficiently handle large accumulation of snow. When facing the street, push or blow snow to the right side of the driveway entrance. Please DO NOT push or blow snow into the street as this negates the work of the snowplow and is a safety hazard to traffic. The Village does not remove snow from sidewalks (except the Central Business District) or driveway entrances.

#2 Please give our snowplow drivers a break if they happen to push some of the snow back on your drive while keeping the streets clear of ice and snow for the safety of drivers and pedestrians. Help the drivers out. They've been up throughout the night and into the wee hours of the morning, and remember - when they get home, they have to shovel their way into their own driveway... "so be good for goodness sake."

## Cycle before Recycle

By Homewood's Tree Committee

Before disposing of this year's Christmas tree, consider extending its use beyond the landfill. Your pine, fir, spruce or hemlock can serve a greater purpose, providing shelter and protection for over-wintering birds. Just place the tree next to bird feeder to provide shelter from strong winter winds, and a safe haven from predation or extreme cold. Once the refreshing temperatures of spring arrive, trees can be broken down and placed in your yard waste cans for disposal.



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AGES 3-5

Tuesday - Friday

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www.wonderlandpreschool.org

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—Paula Cline, mother of David Cline, age 9  
Ingalls Urgent Aid patient



## Dealing with life's little emergencies is easy with Ingalls Urgent Aid Centers!

Ingalls Urgent Aid offers quick, convenient care when conditions aren't life-threatening, but still require immediate treatment. Ingalls Urgent Aid is open 24/7/365 and typically treats:

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- > Earaches and eye injuries
- > Fever/flu
- > Gastrointestinal distress
- > Cuts, burns and bruises

Ingalls Urgent Aid Centers are an extension of the hospital's Emergency Department.

NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED!



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Homewood, IL 60430  
Bus: 708-365-5222

tom.luscombe.btt0@statefarm.com



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# Beautification Awards 2007

The Beautification Committee is proud to be involved in the beautification awards program, which rewards diligence, personal commitment, and community involvement. Founded in 1989, the annual awards program recognizes outstanding property maintenance by homeowners and businesses, as well as the volunteers who maintain adopted planters throughout Homewood.

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chairperson Jack Hrymak | Barbara Sterning                  |
| Lisa DeVries            | Sherelle Tenclay                  |
| Kim Hamilton            | Pam Van Niel                      |
| Carol Healy             | Village Staff Liaisons,           |
| Dr. Ralph Kruse         | Director of Public Works          |
| Nancy McCallum          | John Schaefer and                 |
| Ann McLaughlin          | Assistant Director Joe Jakobowski |
| Vicki Seaton            | Program Coordinator, Lisa Syren   |

## ADOPT-A-PLANTER

- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Coventry Family<br>2025 & 2026 Ridge Road               | Fred & Mary Koeppen<br>Southwest Side of VFW Memorial | Tom & Mary Ellen Brabec<br>Harwood Train Station          | Ruth Thomas<br>Southeast corner of Ashland & Maple        | U of I Master Gardeners<br>Kroner & Martin Planter<br>Martin & Hickory Planter<br>Village Hall Planters<br>Martin Parking Lots |
| Balagio Ristorante<br>2037 Ridge Road                   | Lofgren Family<br>Northwest corner of Martin & Ridge  | Edward Douglas Salon<br>18048 Martin Avenue               | Team Clover/4-H Club<br>Dixie & Hawthorne<br>Welcome Sign | Homewood Police Assoc.<br>17950 Dixie Highway  |
| Keller Williams Preferred Realty<br>18101 Martin Avenue | Dairy Queen<br>1700 Ridge Road                        | Homewood Professional Firefighters<br>17950 Dixie Highway |   |  |

## BUSINESS AWARDS

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Park Avenue LLC<br>2161 Oak Road             | Larcher Chiropractic<br>18218 Harwood Avenue     | American Technical Publishing<br>1155 175th Street   | Pete's Auto Service of Homewood<br>18678 Dixie Highway |
| Dr. James Kruez, DDS<br>18040 Park Avenue    | Bamboo Blue<br>18147 Harwood Avenue              | Charter One Bank<br>17450 Halsted Street             | Baker's Square Restaurant<br>18849 Dixie Highway       |
| Kuziel State Farm<br>17700 Dixie Highway     | Homewood Florist<br>18064 Martin Avenue          | Chili's<br>17928 Halsted Street                      | Tews Funeral Home<br>18230 Dixie Highway               |
| Leona's Restaurant<br>17501 Dixie Highway    | Streamline Survey<br>18148 Martin Avenue         | Homewood Disposal Service, Inc.<br>1501 175th Street | Aurelio's Pizza<br>18150 Harwood Avenue                |
| Condos<br>2047 Cedar Road                    | Comcast<br>17700 Hoffman Way                     | Applebee's<br>17575 Halsted Street                   | Walgreens<br>18300 Governors Hwy                       |
| Anthony Bruni<br>2025 Maple Road             | Manor Care<br>940 Maple Avenue                   | Speedway SuperAmerica<br>18002 Halsted Street        | Bella Vita Home Accents<br>18111 Dixie Highway         |
| St. Joseph's Parish<br>17951 Dixie Highway   | Lighting Distributors, Inc.<br>17600 Hoffman Way | Great Lakes Bank<br>18600 Dixie Highway              | Tin Ceiling Tavern<br>2012 Ridge Road                  |
| Harvest Home & Garden<br>18107 Dixie Highway | Harris Bank<br>17600 Halsted Street              |  |  |

## LANDMARK AWARDS

- 17737 Cherrywood Lane
- 17827 Tipton Avenue
- 2160 Chestnut Road
- 2055 Maple Road
- 1852 Sycamore Road
- 1750 Burr Oak Road
- 1816 Sycamore Road
- 1543 Linden Road
- 1213 Olive Road
- 17710 Presidents Drive
- 18521 Homewood Avenue
- 18604 Heather Road
- 1350 Birch Road
- 18524 Carpenter Street
- 19028 Loomis Avenue
- 18459 Perth Avenue
- 2437 Ravisloe Lane
- 18158 Stewart Avenue
- 18430 Gottschalk Avenue
- 1816 Idlewild Lane
- 18443 Martin Avenue

## RESIDENTIAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

 <i>The Balogs</i> 17956 Sacramento Avenue	 <i>The Galens</i> 3100 Hickory Road	 <i>The Korkoyahs</i> 2800 Birch Road	 <i>The Averys</i> 18327 California	 <i>The Harmons</i> 3216 186th Street	 <i>The Guzinskis</i> 1453 Burr Oak Road	 <i>The Sedgwiches</i> 18029 Armitage	 <i>The Brooks</i> 17934 LaHaigh Road	 <i>The O'Learys</i> 17935 LaHaigh Road	 <i>The Finnertys</i> 18623 Ashland Avenue
 <i>The Thomases</i> 3336 186th Street	 <i>The Van Ettens</i> 17859 Howe Avenue	 <i>The Gannons</i> 2209 Cedar Road	 <i>The Gossetts</i> 17846 Howe Avenue	 <i>The Jensens</i> 17612 Golfview	 <i>The Eabearts</i> 1657 187th Street	 <i>The Mizgalskis</i> 1654 Evergreen Road	 <i>The Nettles</i> 18733 Highland	 <i>The Clarks</i> 1329 Jamie Lane	 <i>The Russells</i> 19255 Riegel Road
 <i>The Sowacks</i> 2226 Maple Road	 <i>The Jaggards</i> 17609 Golfview	 <i>The Savages</i> 17901 Gottschalk Avenue	 <i>The Wrights</i> 1847 Sycamore	 <i>The Woods</i> 17928 Highland	 <i>The Lanes</i> 19257 Riegel Road	 <i>The Boydstons</i> 18125 Stewart	 <i>The Dudleys</i> 18152 Rockwell	 <i>The Aherns</i> 18120 Perth	 <i>The Laroccas</i> 18426 Perth
 <i>The Stevensons</i> 1837 Cedar Road	 <i>The Smiddys</i> 1832 Cedar Road	 <i>The Daws</i> 17729 Gladville	 <i>The Barrs</i> 1459 Olive Road	 <i>The Gombashes</i> 1255 Hickory Road	 <i>The Davises</i> 1936 187th Street	 <i>The Wilsons</i> 1944 Evergreen Road	 <i>The Shroyers</i> 1753 Terrace	 <i>The Szikys</i> 18645 Cowing	 <i>The Egdorfs</i> 18327 Center

# Board, Commission & Committee News

## New Appointments to Advisory Posts

Village President Richard Hofeld, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appointed several residents to boards, commissions and committees that serve as

advisories to the Board of Trustees. New appointments include Adam Middleton to the Appearance Commission, Tom Tomaszewski to the Economic Development Commit-

tee, Michael Cap to the Zone Board of Appeals, Kelly Ford and Anthony Brown to the Community Relations Commission, Seth Bransky to the Zone Board of Appeals, Sherwin R.

Rosenfeldt to the Cable Television Commission, Richard Lites to the Plan Commission, and Annielois Evans and Lisa Purcel to the Senior Advisory Committee.

## Keep in Touch With Your Neighbors

While "Block Party" season may have come to a close, don't let that keep you from staying in touch with your neighbors!

The Community Relations Commission encourages residents to continue that strong neighborhood spirit throughout the winter months.

Some ideas to try on your block may include a holiday party: invite neighbors to come together and share some of their holiday tradi-

tions and/or customs; or, plan a progressive dinner, hors d'oeuvres, or a cocktail party.

Progressive parties are a lot of fun. They start at one house and move from home to home for different courses, recipes, or themes. Establish one house as the "kid zone" and hire a responsible and creative babysitter to keep the kids entertained while the adults enjoy conversation, traveling from house

to house.

Why not form a book club with your neighbors; meet every few weeks at a different home to discuss the book of the month. Sample new recipes, play board games or an evening of charades; pick any reason not to lose touch with those who share your block.

It only takes two or three neighbors to pick a date and get the plans rolling. Remember to

invite everyone on your block; use a simple flyer with the planned date, and remember to add your phone number so neighbors can RSVP. Get everyone involved. Keep it light, fun and inviting – that way, everyone is sure to have a good time.

Hope to see you at the New Years Eve Day Celebration!

Sincerely,  
Your Community  
Relations Commissioners

## Dixie Highway's Fame Goes International

by Elaine Egdorf  
Heritage Committee Chair

With a phone call from Rachael Jones, Homewood's community information coordinator, that visitors were seeking Dixie Highway souvenirs, Elaine Egdorf hurried to the Village Hall to meet them. Arriving at the village hall, Egdorf saw a couple, dressed in black leathers, step out of the lobby elevator. "Are you our visitors?" asked Egdorf, chairman of the Heritage Committee, which promotes Dixie Highway as a heritage route. Indeed they were. Martin and Karin Karner had ridden their motorcycles from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on the Canadian border to Florida and were on their way back to complete their round trip journey in Chicago. They had traveled Rt. 66 a few years ago. The Karners were from Austria and shipped their motorcycles from overseas! They were due to ship the motorcycles back in a few hours and fly back to Austria the next day. The couple posed for photographs in front of the Village Hall and at the Illinois State Historical His-

toric Marker on Dixie Highway. Homewood, they declared, had the best Dixie Highway recognitions of any town on their trip: the metal street signs, the Dixie street pole banners, the mileage sign and the historic marker. Egdorf presented them with Dixie key chains, Drivin' the Dixie license plate frames and a brochure on "What's So Historic About Dixie Highway. The committee planned to send a package to Austria with additional Homewood souvenirs including "Home Sweet Homewood" sweat shirts and copies of the Village Key. Martin said Karen took a spill on a gravel road on the trip. Egdorf inquired, "In Georgia?" Surprised, they agreed and asked how she knew. Egdorf said former Homewood residents who moved to Georgia, John and Barbara Wadsworth, sent photos taken on a dirt road near Brunswick of a mailbox with "Old Dixie Highway" painted on it. Some of the Dixie apparently still isn't paved. The Karners were our first known round-trip visitors and first known international travelers. We hope for many more.

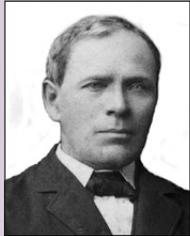


At the request of listeners for information on the Dixie Highway, Dave Nemo, host of a morning show broadcast from Nashville, Tennessee, contacted Elaine Egdorf. After searching the Internet, he said her name came up "all over the place." Egdorf, as chairman of the Village of Homewood Heritage Committee, which promotes the Dixie Highway as a heritage route, sent Nemo a package of information on Dixie. The station, XM171, is broadcast on satellite radio for professional truckers, which is aired nationally and into Canada. The producers arranged for a half hour 8 AM telephone interview. When the half hour was up, Nemo said there was so much to talk about and it was so interesting that he asked Egdorf if she could stay on the

air a little longer. The interview was an hour long. He opened and closed the show with a recording of the song "Dixie" by Martha and the Vandellas. Nemo asked if he could call back in May to talk about plans for Drivin' the Dixie, a traveling car show and tour that the Heritage Committee organizes along with other Dixie Highway towns and the A's R Us Model A Ford Car Club. Drivin' the Dixie's seventh annual event is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2008. John and Lenore Weiss have written a tour book on traveling the triangle route of the Dixie Highway, Lincoln Highway and Rt. 66. Crete has unveiled a design for a Dixie Highway mural. The efforts to promote Dixie Highway as a heritage route are proving very successful.

## 2007 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

In October, the Homewood Heritage Committee held its third annual Homewood Hall of Fame Inductee Luncheon at Ravisloe Country Club. More than 167 people came to support the inductees, many of them family members, parishioners, and friends.



**AUGUST STEINER (1832-1920):**  
**Founder – Blacksmith – Inventor – Developer – President**

Responsible for the petition drive which resulted in a successful referendum calling for Homewood to officially incorporate as a Village in 1893, August Steiner was elected first Village President that same year.

His leadership and foresight provided the groundwork for numerous public works projects and led to improvements which helped to shape the town we know today.



**JOSEPH A. KLAUK (1915-2000):**  
**Firefighter – Planner – Trainer – Responder – Chief**

After dreaming of being a fireman like his father, Joe Klauk served with dedication and distinction for 42 years, achieving the longest tenure of any Homewood firefighter.

His foresight, devotion to duty, and abiding concern for the safety of residents distinguished his career in the fire service.

**PATRICIA VAN MELLE (1926-2007):**  
**Librarian – Girl Scout – Reenactor – Volunteer – Mentor** (*Image unavailable*)

Patricia Jane Holway grew up in Chicago and worked as an analytical chemist before meeting and marrying her husband, Pete van Melle, in 1951.

While raising six children, her legacy of service overlapped numerous affiliations and embodied the

Girl Scout Promise (...to serve God and my country, to help people at all times).



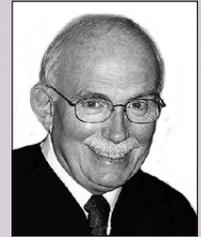
**REV. JOSEPH T. LEDWELL (1933- ):**  
**Pastor – Rotarian – Mason – Clown – Consoler**

Whether in a clerical collar or clown face, Rev. Joe Ledwell (also known as Friar Trick) has shepherded and comforted congregants in churches, hospital wards, and lonely potters' fields.

Bringing blessings or balloons, his kind devotion has warmed the hearts of many generations of all denominations.

**JOHN T. DOODY, JR. (1945 - ):**  
**Attorney – Veteran – President – Legislator – Judge**

Serving with distinction in all three branches of government, John Doody, Jr. was elected to township, Village, and statewide offices;



served as Village President; and now presides as a Cook County Circuit Judge.

Through service to church, civic and advocacy groups, veterans' organizations, and youth, he has contributed to the development and growth of Homewood.

The Homewood Heritage Committee welcomes inductee nominations for 2008. The initial nomination process is now much easier. Simply, pick up a preliminary nomination form at Village Hall or request a copy via email or fax. Complete the short form and return to Village Hall by January 31st. Homewood is full of involved residents who have made substantial contributions to the community, making its slogan ring true: "Home Sweet Homewood!"

## Village Board Adopts New Recreational Vehicle Regulations

After months of discussion and input from Homewood residents, the Village Board adopted an ordinance regulating recreational vehicles (RVs) that became effective October 9th. At the request of the Board, staff held meetings with interested residents to develop an ordinance that regulates parking and storing recreational vehicles, yet still provides flexibility to RV owners.

RVs are defined as travel trailers, motor homes, camping trailers, boats, all-terrain vehicles, jet skis,

or other similar personal recreational vehicles. These vehicles may be towed by car or truck, carried by pick-up truck, or self-propelled.

At any time, a maximum of two RVs may be parked or stored per residential lot; the RVs must be owned by the resident, and display a current State license plate and/or current Village sticker (if applicable). The maximum size is 40 feet in length. The RV shall not be parked less than five feet from any public right-of-way and shall

not obstruct sight lines for pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

As long as these requirements are met, RVs may be parked or stored within a space that is enclosed on all sides and not open to the sky, e.g. garage, and also in a rear or side yard, provided the parking space is improved with a hard surface pavement.

From April 1 to October 31, residents may also park an RV in the front yard provided it is



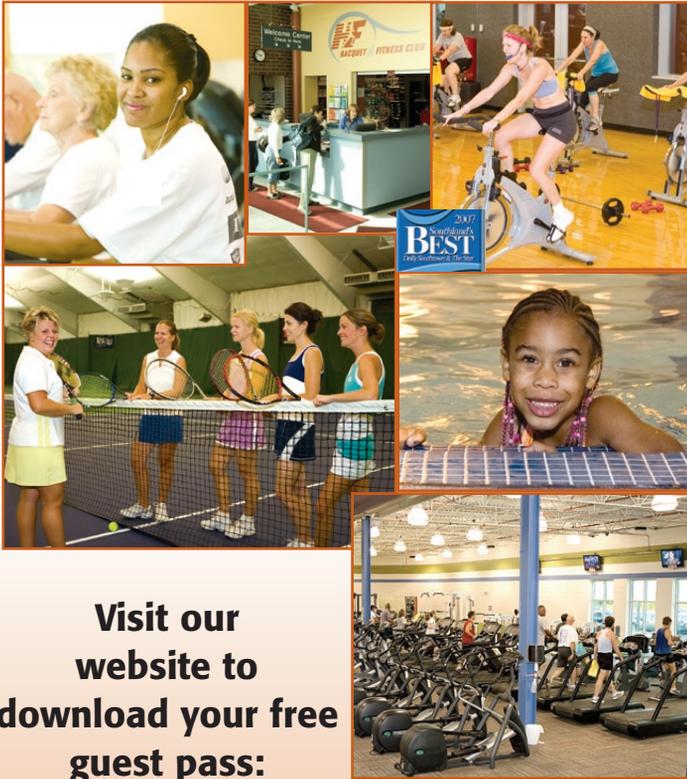
parked on an approved driveway.

From November 1 to March 31, RVs may not be parked or stored in a front yard. Residents that have no vehicular access to the rear or side yard may seek a waiver each year to park their RV in the front yard during the winter months.

To view the entire ordinance, visit the Village website at [home-sweet-homewood.com](http://home-sweet-homewood.com).



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Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood from **Whose Line Is It Anyway?**  
 Sat., Feb. 2 at 8 p.m.

**B.B. King**  
 Fri., Feb. 8 at 8 p.m.

**Neil Sedaka**  
 Sat., Feb. 16 at 8 p.m.

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 Sun., Feb. 17 at 4 p.m.

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 The Center is located minutes off I-57 at the Sauk Trail exit. Free Parking Available.

# Finance

Department of Finance  
2020 Chestnut Road  
708.798.3000

## Important Tips For Snowbirds

### Water Billing

Residents who “fly south” during the cold season should contact the water-billing clerk for two reasons: 1) so the Village can expect low usage in their water, avoiding an estimated bill, and 2) they can request their next bill be forward-

ed to their winter address. For more information contact Nina Guzzo at 206 – 3365.

### Vehicle Sticker

If you expect to be away from your home through next April, submit a self-addressed stamped

envelope to the Village Hall and a vehicle sticker application will be mailed to you. Please be sure to include your Homewood address with your request. For more information contact Sandy at 206-3368.

## Important Dates for 2008 Presidential Primary Election

12/27/2007	First day absentee ballot applications are accepted.	1/31/2008	Last day of early voting.
1/8/2008	Last day to register to vote.	2/1 - 4/2008	In-person absentee voting at any of the Cook County Clerk's offices
1/9/2008	First day of grace-period registration and voting at locations determined by Cook County Clerk's Office.	2/4/2008	Last day voted mail absentee ballots can be postmarked for acceptance by the Cook County Clerk's office.
1/14/2008	First day of early voting.	2/5/2008	Presidential Primary Election
1/22/2008	Last day of grace-period registration and voting.		

## Giving Tree 2007

The Village of Homewood is proud to announce its fourth annual Giving Tree Project located in the Village Hall lobby through the holiday season. The Giving Tree is decorated with “wishes” from local disadvantaged children. Please stop by and pick up a “wish” – together we can make sure everyone in Homewood has a warm and happy holiday season! For more information call Lisa Syren at 206-3470.



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# Community Development News

## Downtown Sign Program

Homewood's Central Business District (CBD) is now elegantly clad with gateway signs, directional signs, wayfinding signs, street signs, and an informational kiosk to create continuity throughout the entire downtown while informing residents and attracting visitors to the many amenities of Homewood's downtown.

There are two kinds of gateway signs: "monument" gateway signs located at the north viaduct (183rd Street and Dixie Highway) and at Dairy Queen (Ridge Road and Gladville Avenue); and a "viaduct" gateway sign installed on the south viaduct, welcoming eastbound travelers to the downtown.

Wayfinding and directional signs are located throughout the Village and downtown to inform residents and visitors of attractions and features located in the downtown area. Four wayfinding signs located at 183rd Street and Governors Highway, 175th Street and Dixie Highway, 187th Street and Dixie Highway, and Ridge Road and Walton Lane direct motorists to the downtown. Throughout downtown, and its border, there are directional signs that help guide motorists to specific locations, such as the Metra Station, Village Hall, or public parking lots.

To bring continuity between downtown Homewood and surrounding intersections, new street signs were installed. These signs carry the same logo and color scheme as the directional and way-

finding signs.

At the east entrance of the Metra station, an informational kiosk identifies each downtown business in an effort to make everyone's visit to Homewood pleasant and easy to travel.



Finally, all four public parking lots (shown in red) are identified with "P" signs. These lots are located throughout the downtown area and are available to shoppers, residents, and employees. These lots provide three hour parking throughout the week for all customers/shoppers in the downtown and all day on weekends.

An additional parking lot for downtown patrons is the Village Hall Parking Lot (green). The lot is available for use on weeknights from 6 PM to 6 AM and provides unlimited parking on weekends (Saturday,



Sunday, and holidays too).

During the week, the Village Hall Parking Lot has up to five parking spaces available for rent. Daily rental spaces are \$2 per day and available to residents only. The Village also offers two spaces for

seniors who periodically need to travel to Chicago using rail transportation.



## Single Family Rehab Program

Chicago Southland Development Inc. (CSDI) is accepting applications for Community Development Block Grant funds in

conjunction with the Single Family Rehabilitation Program. CSDI is the management team that has administered the program for the

Village of Homewood and other southern suburbs for the past 10 years. Homewood residents whose homes are in need of assistance are

asked to contact CSDI representatives at 922-4600.

## Portable Temporary Storage Containers

A relatively new concept that has occurred in recent years has been 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. Because of the increased usage of the containers, and the lack of regulatory powers the Village had with the units, it was deemed that some regulation would be appropriate at this time. At the Village Board meeting on June 26th, the Board passed an ordinance limiting the use of portable temporary storage containers on single family residential property.

### The ordinance states the following:

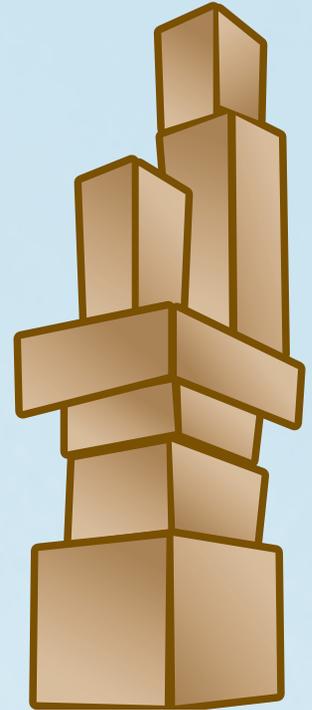
- Portable temporary storage containers are allowed in any single family residential district provided they meet the following conditions:
  - Only one container may be located on a residential property at a time;
  - No portion of any container may extend onto the public right-of-way, including but 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 206-3385.



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Don't forget...

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 Irwin Park



### H-F Students Volunteer

Students from Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School are volunteering with Strays in the Garden, a no-kill animal-rescue group that has partnered with the Petco store in Homewood to find homes for cats and kittens. The group has the cats neutered or spayed and places them for adoption in the store where they are visited by volunteers. On October

21st, a training session was held with the new student volunteers. Mayor Richard Hofeld also attended to show appreciation to the students. People interested in adopting or volunteering should contact the store 708/206-0639. Available cats are listed at [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). The group is listed in Highland, Indiana.

# Shop HOME SWEET HOMEWOOD

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Rooster Video</b><br>18031 Dixie Highway          | <b>Edible Arrangements</b><br>18310 Governors Highway |
| <b>FedEx/Kinko's</b><br>17852 Halsted Street         | <b>Ken's Pro Shop</b><br>3043 183rd Street            |
| <b>Homemade Pizza Co.</b><br>18324 Governors Highway | <b>The Proving Ground</b><br>1820 Ridge Road          |
| <b>Atiuq89</b><br>1820 Ridge Road                    |   |

*Please join us in welcoming these new businesses to Homewood. Stop in and say hello, and don't forget to Shop Homewood.*

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# HONORING VETERANS DAY WITH SOLDIER'S STORIES

By John Williams  
 Writer and Homewood Resident

During times of war, we often turn to soldiers of prior generations to help us understand and reaffirm the unvarnished meaning of sacrifice and service. This is especially true on Veterans Day. In anticipation and recognition of the November 11th holiday, the Village Key spoke with two Homewood veterans who embody devotion to service, family, and patriotism.

With pride, a flagpole sits outside the home of 76-year-old Dave Wood, a Homewood resident since 1988. Raised in downstate Ogden, a small town near Champaign, Dave – the oldest child of seven children – fudged his age by two years to join the Marines in 1948. Just 16 and desperately wanting to remain in uniform, Private Wood spent the next two years



wondering when his secret would be exposed.

“I sweated it out until I was 18 and when it was time to re-enlist I corrected my records,” he said.

Specializing in communications, Dave went on to serve with distinction in Korea and Vietnam, rising to the rank of first lieutenant before retiring from active duty in 1968. Looking back on his career, he cherishes old friends and honors the memories of comrades who gave their lives on distant battlefields.

“I served with many good men, he recalled. “There were no heroes though... we were just Marines doing our jobs.”

Married for 55 years, Dave and his wife, Vivian, head a family of five children, 13 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren (at last count). Two of his three sons served in the armed forces, but not his beloved Marine Corps.

“One volunteered for the Air Force and the other served in the Navy, he said with a wry smile, adding that all of his kids often joke about being raised as Marines.

As the patriarch of a family that has given much to this country, Dave believes Americans, especially today's younger generation, must seize the torch from veterans who served the U.S. with courage and conviction.

With his framed medals and commendations serving as a backdrop in the basement of his home, Dave stressed that everyone must heed the nation's call for service.

“Somewhere along the line, we seem to have lost it (patriotism).” For the good of our country, he implored, we need to get it back.

Like millions of Americans, Leon Smith was driving to work on the morning of December 7, 1941 when he heard about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The following day, the U.S. declared war on Japan and Leon, a Chicago native, would join millions of patriotic men and women – now heralded as the “Greatest Generation” – as soldiers in World War II.

Forsaking a military deferment, Leon joined the Air Force and was trained stateside as a radio operator. As a newly minted member of the 388th Bomb Group, 3rd Air Division, he was shipped to a military base in England and engaged in dangerous bombing missions on B-17 fighters.

Over the next year, he participated in 28 bombing runs over hostile enemy territories, the highest number of missions allowed for Air Force artillery crewmembers. Calling himself the “luckiest man alive,” Leon, shaken but largely unscathed, often pulled himself out of bullet-ridden aircraft.

Better still, there were no fatalities among his fellow crewmen.

“When we got back (from the missions), we had a good, stiff drink,” Leon said.

With no more missions ahead and his overseas

obligation fulfilled, he returned to the U.S. Upon arrival on American soil, he was not greeted with a large parade as commonly depicted in wartime Hollywood movies of the 1940s and 50s.

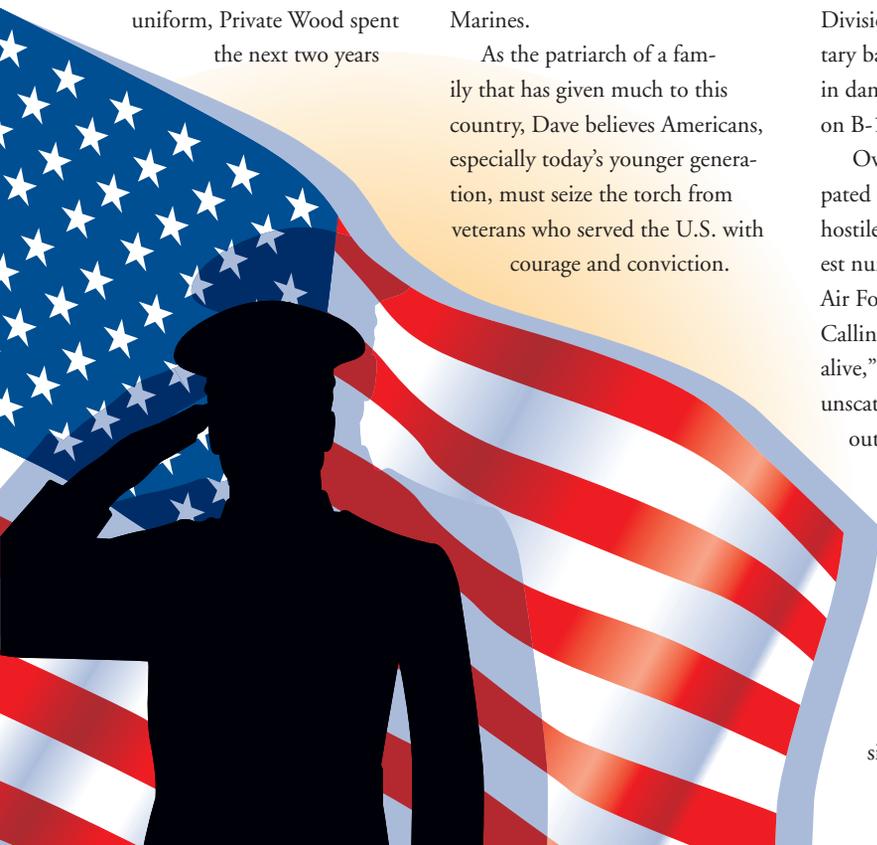
“I couldn't have cared less, Leon said, “I did my duty... I was just happy to be back home.”

Honorably discharged in 1945 with the rank of technical sergeant, Leon and Velia, his wife of 64 years, settled in Homewood in 1952, raising a son and daughter. The Smith clan now includes five grandchildren and two great grands.

Soon to turn 88, Leon talks easily about his war service and exchanges Christmas cards with a few remaining friends from his Air Force days. Assured and unassuming, he is a testament to our country and the “Greatest Generation.”

About Veterans Day: Formerly known as Armistice Day, Veteran's Day was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was “dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as ‘Armistice Day.’” As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress – at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Each year on Veterans Day, special services are held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. (Source: www.military.com.)



# Homewood 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 and the Homewood Historical Society Museum, 2035 W. 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 Homewood's own radio station WOK.*

In 1925, the Neutrowound Radio Manufacturing Company, a division of the Advanced Automobile Accessories Corporation, moved their production facilities from Chicago to Homewood. Their plant was located in a new 50' by 300' building south of the Homewood Coal, Ice and Material Company yard located on 183rd Street west of the I.C. tracks, now the site of Flosswood Condominiums. In addition to producing radio sets in fine wood cabinetry, Neutrowound also produced a unique styled ultra modern set in a metal case that required three dials to fine tune.

To help boost sales, Neutrowound purchased its own radio station, WCBZ, which had been operated by the Cappotelli Brothers

Music House in Chicago Heights. Neutrowound moved the station to broadcast and transmission facilities adjacent to its plant in Homewood and the Federal Radio Commission (FRC) allowed the station to operate at 500 watts and assigned the station call letters WOK.

WOK frequently broadcast live remote programs from studios in the Terrace Garden Room of

station's transmitter in Homewood. On duty at the transmitter, nineteen year old Lester Wolf, said to be one of the youngest licensed radio operators in the country, sprung into action and began to replace the blown fuse when he was knocked down by jolt of electricity. When chief operator Herbert Pomy reached Wolf, the young man had regained his footing

and a modest stone marks his grave with the simple inscription that reads "A Martyr to Radio".

Neutrowound Radio Manufacturing ceased operation in Homewood in 1928 and the firm was sold to the Potter Company in 1929. WOK was purchased by Trianon, Inc. in 1927. Trianon, owner of the famous ballroom by the same name at 6201 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in



## Neutrowound purchased its own radio station, WCBZ, which had been operated by the Cappotelli Brothers Music House in Chicago Heights

the Morrison Hotel at Clark and Madison Streets in Chicago. These remote broadcasts were prone to technical difficulties, which required a great deal of coordination between station staff at the studio and the transmission facilities in Homewood to correct. It was during one of these remotes on July 11, 1926 that vibrations from applause after the completion of a dance number caused a fuse to blow back at the

but collapsed and died minutes later. In his haste to effect repairs, Wolf had failed to disconnect the power.

Lester Wolf was the first person to die in broadcasting and radio station WRNY in New York City began raising funds to erect a monument in his honor. Although some money was raised, it was later believed to have been stolen and the monument never became a reality. Wolf is buried in Homewood Memorial Gardens

Chicago, also owned station WMBB (World's Most Beautiful Ballroom). WOK and WMBB operated jointly for about a year until the stations were denied a renewal of their licenses in 1928. After a number of appeals, the Federal Radio Commission's action was upheld by a federal court decision in 1931, which signaled the end of operation for Homewood's only commercial radiobroadcast station."

# FORBES RATES HOMEWOOD, “MOST LIVABLE METRO-AREA SUBURB”

In October, Forbes magazine rated Homewood as the third most livable suburb in the Midwest. Forbes praised Homewood for its schools, housing stock, percentage of college educated residents, neighborhood safety, and for having one of the highest country-club-to-citizen ratios in the country.

Forbes’ Matt Woolsey explained how the ratings were determined:

“We set out to find the most

largest metros was evaluated based on factors ranging from the quality of schools and the size and price of houses to the safety of the neighborhood and the education level of neighbors. Those that performed the best on all five metrics landed on our list of the three best-value suburbs for each city...

“The research also measured the education level of neighbors, by examining what percentage of

single-family residences were favored over areas where the reverse is the norm. The more people that own, the thinking goes, the more committed they are to the neighborhood and the more stable the community.

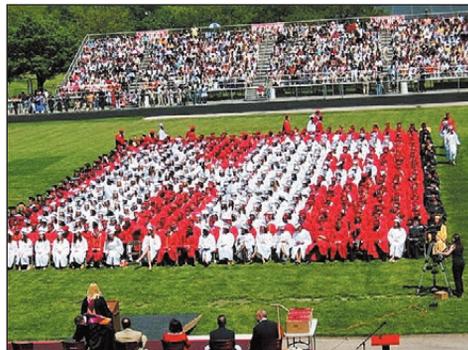
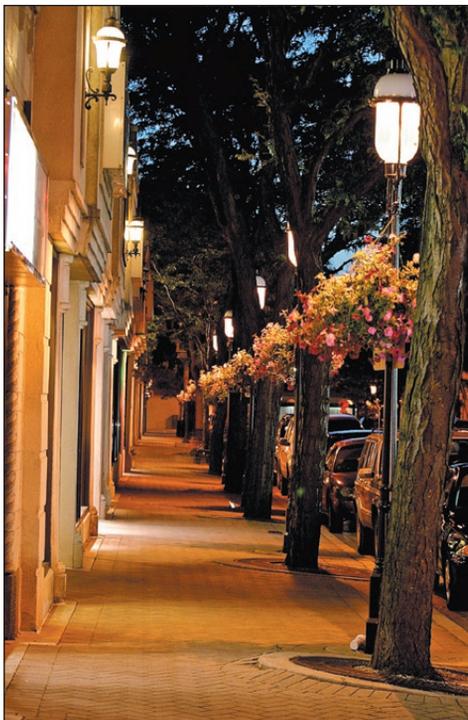
“Areas with larger houses and more bedrooms were ranked ahead of those that, for the same price, offered smaller homes with say, only a couple of bedrooms. The differ-

The crime index for each city comes from the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department’s crime index score for violent and property crime and is measured as a rate per 1,000 of the population.

“Feeling safe and being able to raise a family is what makes a house a home, and a specific suburb a place to be.”

It’s important for residents to know they live in a town that is

*Forbes rated Homewood as the third most livable suburb in the Midwest...*



Photos courtesy of macdphoto.com

affordable metro-area suburbs, using a model from NeighborhoodScout.com, a statistical database that gathers figures from the U.S. Census, the National Center for Education Statistics, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department at the granular neighborhood level. Every suburb within short range of the 15

the community – of those over 25 – had college degrees. Demographers say that facilities, public works, schools and arts and cultural institutions are often better in more educated enclaves.

“Homeownership was another demographic trend measured. Neighborhoods with a higher share of owner-occupied, detached,

ences: five bedrooms versus one bedroom; eight rooms versus two; 2,100 square feet versus 600; a lawn instead of a lobby.

“The quality of local schools may be one of the most important factors weighed by families moving to the suburbs. An area with strong public schools is a prized commodity...

“The final measure was safety.

regionally and nationally recognized as a vibrant town with many desirous attributes. In addition to Forbes rating, Homewood has won the Best of Chicago Southland (Best Community Award) for nine consecutive years, and is the top-rated community in its class according to Chicago magazine’s survey of over 190 suburban communities.



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