

# HOMWOOD VILLAGE KEY

HOMESWEETHOMWOOD.COM | SPRING 2010



1893

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Subscribe to the e-News wire community for bi-weekly reminders on the events and happenings around-town, or visit the Village website: [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com).

## MARCH

**Fifth Annual Fundraising Event**  
Saturday, March 20 | 6:30 PM to 11:30 PM | Idlewild Country Club  
19201 Dixie Highway (Flossmoor)  
*Homewood Foundation for Education Excellence*

## APRIL

Thursday, April 1 | vehicle stickers and pet tags go on sale

**H-F Park District's Earth Day Celebration** | Irons Oaks Saturday, April 17 | 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
*H-F Park District*

**Homewood Baseball Parade and Opening Day**  
Saturday, April 24 | 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM | Ridge Road to Izaak Walton Little League Baseball Fields  
*Homewood Baseball Leagues*

Friday, April 30 | vehicle stickers and pet tags expire

## MAY

**H-F Park District's 24th Annual Park Pride Day**  
Saturday, May 1 | 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM All Area Parks | Lunch at Irwin Park | *H-F Park District*

**Home Green Homewood Event**  
Saturday, May 8 | 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM | Independence Park  
Hickory Road at Dixie Highway  
*Homewood Tree Committee*

**Seventh Annual Rail Heritage Days Slideshow and Photography Exhibition**  
Saturday, May 15 | 7:00 PM  
St. Joseph's School Gymnasium  
17951 Dixie Highway  
*Homewood Rail Committee*

**Seventh Annual Rail Heritage Days Train Show** | Sunday, May 16  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM | Village Hall and Auditorium | 2010-2020 Chestnut Road | *Homewood Rail Committee*

**Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony**  
Monday, May 31 | 10:00 AM  
Dixie Highway to Veterans Memorial Park (Harwood Avenue and Olive Road)  
*Village of Homewood Police Department*

## JUNE

Tuesdays, June 1 | late fees assessed on vehicle sticker purchases

Saturday, June 19

**Downtown Homewood Farmers Market** | 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
St. Joseph's Parking Lot, 17951 Dixie Highway | *Village of Homewood*

**Drivin' the Dixie** | All Day  
Historic Dixie Highway (starts in Blue Island) | *Homewood Heritage Committee*

**Downtown Homewood Art and Garden Street Fair** | 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM | Martin Avenue (Ridge Road to Hickory Road)  
*Downtown Homewood Business Association*

# 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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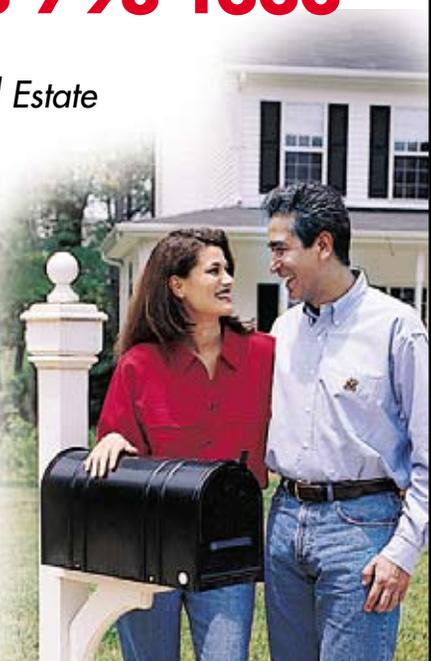
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Richard A. Hofeld  
Village President

By now we've all heard the advertisements for the upcoming Census and how important it is that everyone in your household is counted. The Census Bureau has provided the following list of frequently asked questions which I thought would be helpful to you.

**What is the Census?**

The Census counts every one residing in the United States; in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas once every 10 years. This is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of our Constitution.

**When will the 2010 Census take place?**

Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household and apartment unit



## IT'S IN OUR HANDS

in March, 2010. The count will continue through spring until every resident is thought to be counted.

**What does the Census form contain?**

The form has 10 short questions and after completed is to be mailed back in a postage-paid envelope provided.

**What types of questions are asked in the form?**

Questions relate to the number of residents, their sex, age, date of birth, race and homeownership. For example: How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment or mobile home on April 1, 2010?

**Is the information kept confidential?**

Confidentiality is assured. Only the U.S. Census Bureau is allowed to use the information for statistical purposes. Additionally, by law, this information is kept private for 72 years. (Note: the form does not ask about your legal status or for your Social Security number – any form doing so is a fake, and should not be completed).

President's Message  
*continued on page 4*

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Not valid with any other offer. Hurry, certificate expires 03/31/10.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

## President's Message

*continued from page 3*

### Who should be counted at your residence?

Every person who is living at that residence should be counted, whether a U.S. citizen or not. Everyone, including non-citizens, should be counted. Students if they "live and sleep at the residence most of the year" should be counted as well.

### Why is the Census important to the State of Illinois?

The Census determines the number of seats that Illinois will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and how \$400 billion in federal funds for grants and programs are allocated.

### Why is the Census important to Homewood's budget?

Homewood receives its portion of the state use tax, income tax (used

for our General Fund) and Motor Fuel Tax (used for street re-paving and improvements) on a per-capita basis. If our population dips we will get less monies.

Based upon our current population of 19,543 residents, we received over \$2.5 million dollars of state revenue. A lower head count means less monies available to Homewood resulting in less dollars for operations and street work.

Last year our capita allocations from the state were as follows:

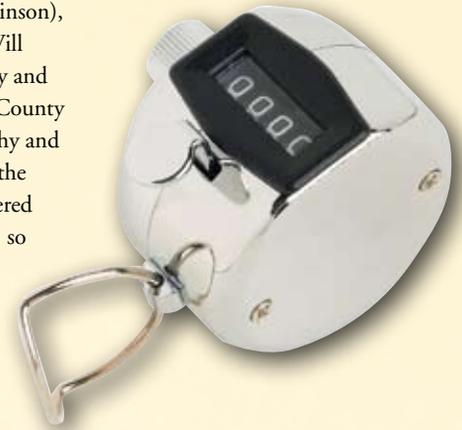
Income Tax	\$91.08
Motor Fuel Tax	\$26.33
State Use Tax	\$14.44
Total per person	\$131.85

**Why is the Census important to Homewood's legislative makeup?**  
Population is a determining

factor in setting not only Illinois' Congressional seats but Homewood's State representative, State senate and County commissioner seats as well. Our population, and that of nearby communities, is the determining factor in establishing boundaries for these seats. Presently Homewood is represented by one Congressman (Jesse Jackson, Jr.), three State senators (Maggie Crotty, James Meeks and Toi Hutchinson), four State representatives (Will Davis, David Miller, Al Riley and Anthony DeLuca) and two County Commissioners (Joan Murphy and Debra Sims). The results of the 2010 Census are to be delivered to each state by March 2011 so re-districting can begin.

As you can see, your participation in the Census

is vitally important to our Village. Should you have any Census questions just click on "Census Bureau" to reach their website. I urge you to quickly complete and submit your Census forms counting everyone at your residence. Your participation really matters to all of Homewood.



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## FIFTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

hosted by the Homewood Foundation for Education Excellence

**Saturday, March 20**  
**6:30 PM to 11:30 PM**  
 Idlewild Country Club  
 19201 Dixie Highway (Flossmoor)  
 (708) 647-2390  
[homewoodfoundation.org](http://homewoodfoundation.org)

On Saturday, March 20, the Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence will host its fifth annual fundraising event to benefit Homewood SD 153 schools. This exciting event will take place at Idlewild Country Club (19201 Dixie Highway) from 6:30 to 11:30 PM. There will be a buffet dinner, silent and live auctions, cash bar, entertainment, and plenty of raffles and games! Open to individuals 18 and older, tickets are \$45.00 before the event and \$50.00 at the door. For tickets, please contact Shelley Peck at the District Office (708) 647-2390, or purchase tickets online at [homewoodfoundation.org](http://homewoodfoundation.org).

*The Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting inspired teaching in our schools. The HFEE awards grants to District 153 faculty and staff who propose creative projects beyond the scope of the school district budget, including*



*special field trips, technology, reading programs, visits by authors, innovative equipment and materials. Thank you to the parents, business leaders, and community members who make these opportunities possible.*

## 27TH ANNUAL FREE HEALTH FAIR

co-sponsored by Homewood Rotary Club and Ingalls Health System

**Sunday, April 11**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**  
 James Hart School  
 H-F Sports Complex  
 183rd Street and Aberdeen  
*Ingalls Care Connection*  
 (800) 221-2199  
[IngallsHealthSystem.org](http://IngallsHealthSystem.org)

Valuable free screenings and low-cost school physicals are highlights of the 27th anniversary of the **FREE FAMILY HEALTH FAIR:**

- More than 35 screenings: includes free total cholesterol blood test, free 12-lead EKG, cancer screenings, stroke screening, discounted blood tests include a \$10.00 full lipid profile (HDL, LDL and triglycerides).
- Mini-stress massages and screenings such as scratch tests for allergies, vision exams, hearing tests, foot screenings and more will return.
- Physicians on Ingalls staff will conduct breast health exams, prostate and

testicular cancer exams, skin cancer screenings and offer colon cancer screening kits. Rotary health professionals conduct cataract and glaucoma screenings, back and neck chiropractic exams.

- School physical with all necessary immunizations for \$15.00. (Please bring all paperwork and forms).

- LifeSource Blood Center will be conducting a blood drive on site at the health fair.

*Check Ingalls website for information on prices and fasting information. Appointments are not necessary for any of the day's screenings. Call Ingalls Care Connection at (800) 221-2199, or register ahead online at [IngallsHealthSystem.org](http://IngallsHealthSystem.org).*

## ANNUAL BASEBALL PARADE AND OPENING DAY

hosted by the Homewood Baseball Leagues

**Saturday, April 24**  
**11:00 AM**  
 Irwin Park to Izaak Walton Preserve/  
 Little League Baseball Fields  
[homewoodbaseballleagues.org](http://homewoodbaseballleagues.org)

Cheer for your favorite teams on Saturday, April 24 when the 2010 Homewood baseball season begins. Come out for the annual parade as 75 proud baseball teams sponsored by local businesses and organizations



walk east down Ridge Road to the picturesque grass infields at Izaak Walton Preserve. Step-off is at 11:00 AM at Irwin Park.

*Established in 1951, Homewood Baseball Leagues is an all-volunteer, non-profit, private organization dedicated to Homewood's youth. This season, the Leagues anticipate approximately 1,200 players at various levels, including the new special needs teams! Over 2,500 invest their time and resources into Homewood baseball each season, including children, parents and siblings. Every summer, more than 37,500 come to Izaak Walton Preserve to watch the children play baseball.*

Community Events  
 continued on page 6

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS continued from page 5



**HOME GREEN  
HOMEWOOD EVENT**  
*hosted by the Homewood  
Tree Committee*

**Saturday, May 8**  
**9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**  
St. Joseph Church  
17951 Dixie Highway  
(708) 798-3000  
[homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com)

Join the Homewood Tree Committee for a Saturday of green living in downtown Homewood. This event will connect eco-minded residents with local businesses who share a passion for earth-friendly practices and products. The focus will be on outdoor living:

- Select nurseries will offer a wide variety of perennials, colorful annuals, and native plants.
- Workshops for those interested in learning about the benefits of composting and vermiculture; rain barrel selection, installation, and proper usage; and the "How To's" of green landscaping and gardening
- Off-site tree plantings available for volunteers seeking service projects to fortify Homewood's lush urban forestry.
- Free take-home nature projects for the kids.

• And, an opportunity to meet unique green vendors, including eco-friendly organizations like the Little Red School House.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL RAIL  
HERITAGE DAYS**  
*hosted by the Homewood  
Rail Committee*

**Slideshow and  
Photography Exhibition**  
**Saturday, May 15**  
**7:00 PM**  
St. Joseph's School Gymnasium  
17951 Dixie Highway

**Train Show**  
**Sunday, May 16**  
**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
Village Hall and Auditorium  
2010-2020 Chestnut Road  
(708) 798-3000  
[homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com)

Saturday evening features a multimedia slide and digital photography exhibition with nationally known photographers presenting their best work. This popular event is hosted at the St. Joseph's School gymnasium at 7:00 PM.

On Sunday, the big train show will feature historical societies, antiques, model train layouts, and railroad related vendors at Village Hall from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Homewood's resident railroad, Canadian National Railways (CN), will have a variety of prototype equipment on display along Harwood Avenue (adjacent to the

Municipal Complex). Kids of all ages can take free rides throughout downtown on Lil Obie, the CN Safety Train. And, throughout the day, visitors are encouraged to stop by the Rail Watching Platform located at Harwood Avenue and Kroner Avenue for a terrific viewing point of the traffic from freight and commuter rail lines. The Rail Park, featuring a newly restored interior of Illinois Central caboose 9426, is located on Park Avenue, just north of the train station. The underground pedestrian tunnel, adorned with murals depicting local railroad history, connects the two attractions.

**NOW A TWO-DAY EVENT!**  
**DOWNTOWN HOMEWOOD  
ART AND GARDEN  
STREET FAIR**  
*co-sponsored by the Downtown  
Homewood Business Association  
and Village of Homewood*

**Saturday, June 19 and  
Sunday, June 20**  
**10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
Martin Avenue at Ridge Road  
(708) 206-3375  
[homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com)  
[dbba.biz](http://dbba.biz)

A highlighted event in the Midwest Art Fairs Journal, the Downtown Homewood Art and Garden Street Fair features fine art, contemporary crafts, antiques, and garden décor. Artisans and visitors will meet on historic Martin Avenue for gourmet fare, wine tastings, live music, and vendor booths featuring antique

jewelry and furniture, art glass, art works, decorative art, glass ware, textiles and handicrafts, from traditional forms to the avant-garde. Admission is free.

On Saturday only, the event will be held in conjunction with opening day of the Farmers' Market (St. Joseph's Parking Lot), the President's Art Contest, the annual antique car rally, Drivin' the Dixie, and even a bike tour of Homewood's neighborhoods for prospective home buyers hosted by the Active Transportation Alliance and area real estate professionals – a great town to bike in is a great town to buy in!

The summer issue of the *Village Key* will feature an event map, vendor listing, and activities schedule, including bike tour details.

## Calling All Amateur Artists!

The Annual President's Art Contest will be held in conjunction with the Art and Garden Street Fair (Saturday only). Amateur artists of all ages are invited to submit artwork in 2-D and 3-D mediums, such as photography, oils, watercolors, charcoal sketches, sculptures, jewelry and more. The subject matter is limitless; however, all entries must depict something about life in Homewood. Entry forms are available online at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com); deadline is Friday, June 4.

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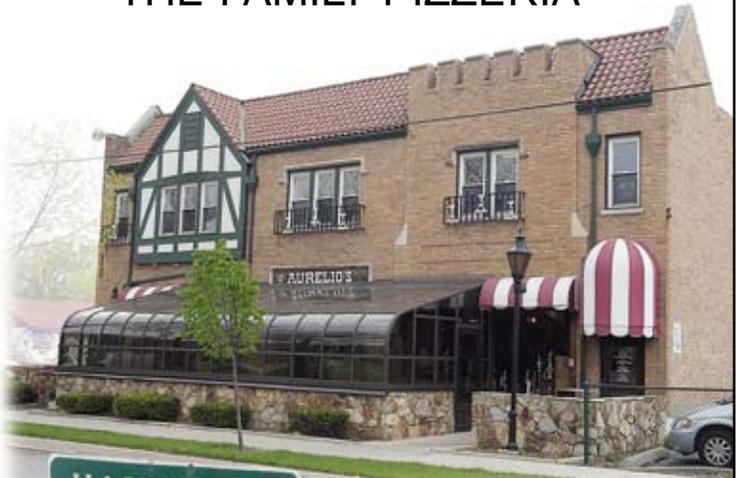
**March 17-Labor Day**

 **Day of booking only. Non-members welcome!**   
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# POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

## Neighborhood Safety

When it comes to discussing neighborhood safety, communicating with your children (at an early age) is key. Below are seven simple, yet important, discussion topics for parents:

- Make certain that your children know their full name and learn their address and telephone number as soon as possible.
- Be sure your children know what to do in case of an emergency and how to reach you using a cell phone or pager number.
- Children should have a neighbor or trusted adult they can call if they are scared, uncomfortable, or confused in any way.

- Establish and review household rules with your children, including the boundaries for who they can go with and where they may and may not go to.

- Be sure your children know their curfew and check in with you if they are going to be late.

- Take your young children on a walking tour of the neighborhood. Help them learn the surrounding streets and main roads by name and landmark. Caution them about taking shortcuts.

- Reassure your children that you are there to help them if they need assistance or just want to talk.

## Be Prepared in a Disaster

A disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can confine you to where you are when it strikes. It can also force you to evacuate your home and the immediate area.

Local emergency services and relief workers will react as quickly as possible. They will not be able to reach everyone immediately.

### *Homewood's Outdoor Warning Siren*

Homewood has an outdoor warning siren system to alert residents of serious weather or hazardous conditions. Sirens are located at the Municipal Service Center, 17755 Ashland Avenue; Patriot's Park, 187th Street and Center Avenue; and 183rd Street and Stewart Avenue. The outdoor siren system (siren tone and voice messaging) is tested the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM.

The siren units contain three pre-programmed voice messages, which should be audible throughout the Village. The three

preprogrammed voice messages are:

Attention - This is a test of the outdoor weather warning system. This is only a test.

Attention - A tornado warning is now in effect. Do not delay. Seek shelter now.

Attention - A hazardous materials incident has occurred. Go indoors now. Close all doors and windows. Turn off all heating and air-conditioning equipment.

If a disaster occurs, the siren and voice message will sound; go indoors and turn on your radio to one of the emergency broadcast stations:

WHFH - 88.5 FM

Listen for further information and instructions. **DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION.** During an actual emergency, dispatch personnel will be busy answering requests for assistance. Call 9-1-1 only if you personally have an emergency situation.

## Stranger Safety (Part One)

*By Officer Curt Wiest*

Teaching children about stranger safety is not as easy as it may seem. One of the reasons is because, according to national statistics, it is not strangers that are most often found guilty of crimes against children; it can be someone your child is taught to trust.

Teaching your child to know the difference between strangers, friends and acquaintances can be complex, but a vital lesson in stranger safety. Children see their parents talk to many people throughout the day. They see friends getting picked up from daycare or school by family members. And, eventually, children begin to recognize these individuals. They understand that their parents

or friends know these people, so children don't feel a reason to be afraid or even hesitant. They perceive these people to be friends, not strangers. The truth is, until you get to really know someone, they are strangers to you and they should be strangers to your child.

Teaching your children how to react to strangers is part of a bigger education that includes learning to tell right from wrong and having the self confidence to say no to a bad situation. Teaching your child these lessons now will go a long way toward fighting peer pressure down the road.

*Read Part Two of Stranger Safety in the summer issue of the Village Key.*

## The Homewood Police Association

In 2003, members of the Homewood Police Department formed the Homewood Police Association (HPA). The Association was organized as a "non-profit, professional, charitable association, non-political and non-partisan organization" whose aim is to form the unity of all Police Department personnel, to assist in recognizing the needs of the Department and create/promote the social, economic and educational policies that are in the best interest of all members and the community.

Dues paid by active members and bracelet sales from Homewood Days currently fund the Association. Last year, the money raised helped support a team in the Breast Cancer Three-Day Walk, Lake County Pipes and Drums, Homewood Baseball, Chicago Police Department Memorial, Homewood

Chevrolet's Coat Drive, gifts for four children through the Homewood Giving Tree, and injured officers from both the Lynwood Police Department and Cape Coral Florida Police Department. The HPA also sponsors two scholarships a year: one for Homewood residents, and the other for children of active Association members.

The HPA is seeking donations from residents to further its involvement in the community. If you are interested in becoming a supporter, please contact the HPA at [hpa\\_911@yahoo.com](mailto:hpa_911@yahoo.com) or call the Police Department and leave a message for any of the Board Members listed below:

- Blake Werner, President
- Robert Misner, Vice-President
- Kelly Kummehelne, Secretary
- Denise McGrath, Treasurer
- Brian Beauchamp, Sergeant at Arms

## Spring Safety

The snow is melting, the trees are budding ... Spring is finally here and your thoughts may be turning to an annual spring cleanup. Please read the following safety tips to make this "Spring Clean-up" a fire safe one!

### *Quick Safety Check!*

- Clean your basement and garage of trash that can fuel a fire.
- Clean and test your smoke alarms.
- Check your electrical fuse box; make sure you have the proper fuses.
- Have your chimney cleaned

and inspected by a qualified technician.

- Keep outdoor debris away from your house.
- Compost your grass clippings away from the house, not under the deck.
- Check your propane barbecue

hose for leaks and cracks.

- Use and store fuel with care.
- Store pool chemicals in a safe place, as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Don't store propane within your home or garage.

Departments of Police & Fire

17950 Dixie Highway  
 Police Non-Emergency - 206-3420  
 Fire Non-Emergency - 206-3400

**Firefighters Receive Certificate of Honor**

Mike Bell and Matt Moran, both career firefighter/paramedics, were awarded a Certificate of Honor by Fire Chief Bob Grabowski at the January 12 Village Board of Trustees Meeting. The Certificate of Honor is received for exemplary performance.



In October of 2009, an elderly man collapsed during a court session at Village Hall. When the ambulance crew arrived on the scene, bystanders were using the AED (Automated External

Defibrillator) and doing CPR. The patient was still unresponsive. Advanced life support care was given by the ambulance crew on the scene where he was resuscitated and transported to the hospital.

**HPA Scholarship Opportunities for Residents**

In 1920 Officer Paul Edward Buckley, a Homewood Police Department motorcycle officer, was killed in the line of duty. In 2004, the Homewood Police Association voted to honor the memory of Officer Buckley by establishing the Officer Paul Edward Buckley Memorial Scholarship. The \$1,000.00 scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who embodies Officer Buckley's commitment to public service.

Applications for the 2010 scholarship are now available. Applications must be turned in by April 30. Applicants must be Homewood residents and members of their 2007-08 high school graduating class. Applications are available 24 hours a day at the Homewood Police Department, 17950 Dixie Highway. Questions should be directed to Sergeant D. McGrath at (708) 206-3420, xt. 5406, or by email hpa\_911@yahoo.com

**Is Your Home or Business Address Visible from the Street?**

The Homewood Municipal Code – Chapter 94, Section 94-172 – requires that buildings and houses display their address number, for easy and rapid identification, particularly in case of an emergency. Firefighters, paramedics and police officers can save valuable time locating an address when responding to an emergency if the numbers are prominently displayed. The pertinent language of the Code is:

building... The figures of such numbers shall be not less than three inches in height and of such character as to be distinctly and easily read, and shall be placed in a conspicuous place on the street side of the premises..."

The numbers can be internally lighted, and need to be visible from the street at all times of the day or night. Numbers and number signs are available from most home-improvement stores. Lighted address signs are also available from many home-improvement stores, as well as some online sources.

"The numbers...shall be displayed on the street side of each

**IMPORTANT UPDATE!**

**July Fourth Parade and Picnic**

The Fourth of July falls on a Sunday this year; therefore, the Village of Homewood will host its annual parade on Saturday, July 3. Details to follow in the summer issue of the *Village Key*.

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 M, F 9am-6pm • T, W, Th 9am-8pm • Sat 9am-5pm

<p><b>KID'S CUT</b>  <b>\$8.95</b>                  includes shampoo, conditioner, cut &amp; blow dry                  Long Hair Extra.                  Additional Charges May Apply.</p>	<p><b>COLOR, CUT &amp; STYLE</b>  <b>\$10 OFF \$39.00</b>                  Long Hair Extra.                  Additional Charges May Apply.                  Not valid with other specials.                  Valid at Homewood location only.                  Expires 4/30/10.</p>
<p><b>PERM OR RELAXER</b>  <b>\$5 OFF FULL SERVICE</b>                  ADULT CUT  <b>\$2 OFF</b>                  includes shampoo, conditioner, cut, blow dry &amp; style</p>	<p><b>HAIR CUT &amp; DEEP CONDITIONING</b>  <b>\$5 OFF \$24.00</b>                  Long Hair Extra.                  Additional Charges May Apply.                  Not valid with other specials.                  Valid at Homewood location only.                  Expires 4/30/10.</p>

# PLANNING A VIBRANT VISION FOR HOMEWOOD IN CHALLENGING TIMES

By John Williams Jr.  
Resident and contributing writer

In what has been described by some historians as the worst U.S. economy since the early 1980s, the Village of Homewood is facing a two-prong challenge: meeting its obligations today while developing a viable strategic framework to assure community growth and stability tomorrow.

Last year, the Homewood Village Board contracted the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University to facilitate a strategic planning process. From attracting businesses to sustaining a diverse and reliable tax base, the process covered a number of tactical issues and provided the Village Board with direction and sustenance to proactively address those issues over the next five years.

As part of the strategic planning process, the Village also conducted an online survey of 750 residents and business owners on a variety of issues pertaining to the quality of life in Homewood.

Like millions of communities, Homewood is facing the daunting task of providing residents and businesses with the same high-level municipal services they have come to expect in the face of declining revenue streams, particularly sales tax and State shared income tax revenues.

Drawing on a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, three key Homewood officials – President Richard Hofeld, Finance Director Dennis Bubenik and Village Manager Mark Franz – say Homewood’s elected officials and management staff are confronting the imposing challenges of today’s economic realities head-on.

“We are taking a comprehensive review of all costs and revenues to determine how best to balance services with revenue in this ‘new revenue’ environment,” notes Franz. “There is not a cure all, so we are looking at fees that have not been raised recently or fees that do not cover the costs of the services.”

Through improved work efficiencies, Bubenik says the

Village is exploring how operational costs can be lowered across departments. He adds that selected “revenue enhancements” are also under consideration. “This involves possible new sources like selling advertising on our cable channel or website or increasing fees that do not impact residents, such as emergency medical fees that are fully paid by insurance (providers),” Bubenik explains.

Prior to the economic downturn, the relative availability of state, regional, federal and private grants assisted in filling the budgetary gaps of local governments, allowing municipalities to allocate funds for essential basic services. While freely admitting “grant funding is becoming harder and harder to find,” Hofeld says the Village Board will continue to aggressively pursue this source of revenue.

With award winning school and park districts, the Village of Homewood is recognized throughout the Midwest for its ability to combine small-town sensibilities with a charming urban flair. In 2007, Forbes magazine rated Homewood as one of the three most “livable” suburbs in the Chicago metropolitan area.

No community, however, is an island.

To improve and strengthen Homewood’s infrastructure, the strategic planning process repeatedly trumpets the importance of promoting beneficial partnerships with neighboring communities.

A good government philosophy is based on looking at more efficient ways to provide services, according to Franz. “One way to meet this goal is to consolidate services like we did with the Joint Dispatch Center E-COM. This approach resulted in economies of scale and allowed us to receive regional grants that would not have been available by ourselves. By looking at other infrastructure plans such as a water cross connection with Chicago Heights, regional fire training, or other projects, we may have similar success. Working together, we can accomplish more,” he says.

Purchasing a home is one

of the biggest investments most people will make in their lifetimes. Compared to other Chicago area communities, Bubenik relates, housing values in Homewood are good. In the resident survey, however, a number of respondents – many of who have called Homewood home for over 20 years – expressed growing concerns about the preservation of high property standards.

These concerns have been heard loud and clear, and helping residents protect their huge investment is one of the top priorities of the Village Board.

“The Village has had a code-enforcement program in effect for several years,” Hofeld states. “Last year, this program became more proactive; inspectors are walking throughout the town to see first-hand, up-close, property violations. These violations, whether they be deterioration of the structure or general lack of maintenance, will be brought to the attention of the property owner for remediation.”

For the business sector, Homewood has been very proactive in terms of working with businesses to offer façade improvements and other incentives to encourage investment in their properties. “This will continue and we will look at different ways to strengthen the business community,” Hofeld continues.

Throughout the resident survey, Village staffers and departments garnered high marks for courteousness, responsiveness and professionalism. The Public Works Department received particular praise for the tough jobs they perform usually under dire conditions.

“Whether it is snow plowing, repairing water main breaks or enhancing the landscape in public areas, they are outstanding,” Hofeld says. Noting the survey finding is a good indicator that residents are appreciative of the services they receive in Homewood, Franz adds: “This speaks volumes for what I tell everyone. We have an extremely hardworking group of employees that are led by a professional and progressive

## Rediscover Homewood – map insert

A complimentary map of key areas in Homewood is provided as an insert in this issue. Keep this map and use it to familiarize yourself with Homewood’s beautiful boundaries and web of local thoroughfares. Homewood’s close-knit way of life is illustrated in its geography: expansive commercial districts within walking distance of traditional neighborhoods, green spaces, and preserved natural areas.

management team. We have a team concept that we all understand; we can be more efficient and effective working together to accomplish our goals. That is how we intend to accomplish our 2010-15 Strategic Plan.”

With dedicated public officials, a committed workforce, engaged businesses and involved citizens, the future of Homewood rests in extremely capable hands. Gazing a decade ahead, Hofeld believes the Chicago metropolitan area is primed for a regional recovery that will energize the south suburbs.

“Utilizing our transportation advantages, our new airport, and other infrastructure improvements (Illiana Expressway, Southeast Rail line, and I-57/294 interchange), this region will begin to reinvent itself in the world economy,” Hofeld offers. “This regional rejuvenation will bring more interest to the Homewood community as the ideal place to raise a family in the south suburbs. The future is bright as you look past the challenges of today to the possibilities of the future.”

The Strategic Plan 2010-2015, featuring the citizen survey is available for review online at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com).



THE VILLAGE OF

# HOMEWOOD

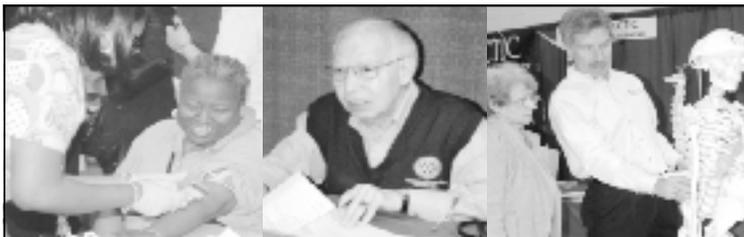
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1893

2010 Map



Just 25 miles south of Chicago's Loop, Homewood (pop. 20,000+) has a commuter-friendly downtown with Amtrak and Metra stops and exit ramps off I-60 and I-294.



**More than 30 FREE Screenings**

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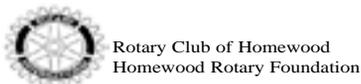
**James Hart School in Homewood**  
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**Sunday April 25th 12:00-2:00**

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



*Register before May 31st for the Fall 2010 school year and*

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

**Shop Home Sweet Homewood**

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

**Rico's Pizza**  
 18324 Governors Highway

**Little Colony**  
 18360 Governors Highway

**Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra**  
 Park Forest

**Reflections Yoga Center**  
 18675 Dixie Highway

**Sara Lee Bakery**  
 18400 Governors Highway

**Powers Building Improvements**  
 (708) 799-4192

**Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago**  
 1055 175th Street

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

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# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

## 2010 Census Questionnaire

Residents should have received their Census questionnaire, which was mailed or delivered to households in mid-February. The Census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. All households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Every year, the Federal Government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part,

on census data. Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing, and community facilities. Census data also determines the boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked

to provide key demographic information, including:

- whether a housing unit is rented or owned
- the address of the residence
- the names, genders, ages, and races of others living in the household

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's response with anyone, including

other Federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Additional Census questionnaires are available at the Village Hall for any household that did not receive one in the mail. 2010 Census questionnaire language guides are available in a variety of languages or large-print. Contact the Village Planner Beth Barron at (708) 206-3386 if you need to request special forms.

## Property Maintenance

Good community living is dependent on good property maintenance.

The purpose of a property maintenance code is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. Structures and premises that are not in compliance are required to be repaired or altered

to meet the code requirements, which are intended to represent the minimum acceptable level of public health and safety.

During inspections, attention is given to debris accumulation, grass which is not maintained below 6" in height, overgrown landscaping obstructing sidewalks or the vision

of motorists, dead and diseased trees, and lack of maintenance of siding, roof, gutters, windows, exterior paint finish, fences, exterior stairways, decks, porches, driveways and walkways.

Property maintenance is the key to protecting and maintaining property values in our community

that will ensure a strong return on the money, time and hard work you invest in your own property. If you have questions about property maintenance, or to report property maintenance issues, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (708) 206-3857.

## Building Permits

Building permits are required for demolitions, all new construction, and most home improvements:

- replacement roofs
- windows and siding
- fences and sheds
- porches and patios
- decks and garages
- swimming pools and hot tubs
- electrical and plumbing
- concrete and asphalt work

Contractors must be registered with the Village before they are issued a building permit. To avoid delays with your home improvement projects, apply early for your building permit (plan review takes approximately two weeks) and check with the Building Division to see if the contractor you are using is registered.

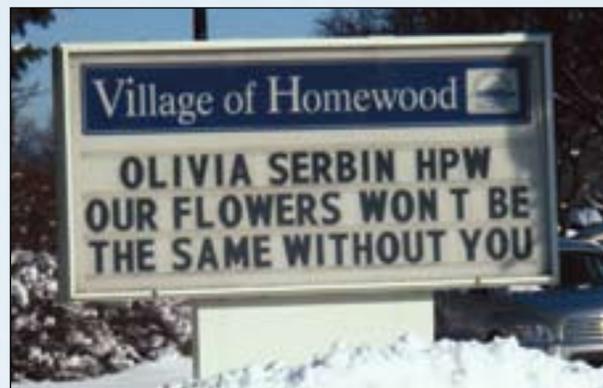
To avoid having to pay unnecessary penalty fees, do not begin construction until a building permit has been issued. If you have questions as to whether a permit is required for your construction project, please call (708) 206-3858, or visit the Building Division located on the second floor of the Village Hall.

## Single Family Rehabilitation Program

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) is accepting applications for Community Development Block Grant funds in conjunction

with the Single Family Rehabilitation Program. SSMMA 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 SSMMA representatives at (708) 922-4600.



## The Passing of a Perennial Flower

Residents and visitors to Homewood have enjoyed the beautiful hanging baskets and floral displays in the Central Business District throughout the years, not ever knowing who was behind them. But for the fortunate that met and knew Olivia Serbin and her dedication to her "babies", they saw a real friend that was passionate about her job and all things beautiful. Hard working,

honest and at times shy, Olivia never turned away from her duties; for her true joy, it seemed, was putting on her Public Works uniform, ball cap and heading out to care for the plants she was so fond of. We lost Olivia on Monday, February 8 to a brief illness; yet, her beauty will remain in the plants she left behind. Thank you Olivia. We will all miss you.

## Street Resurfacing Program

The following streets will be resurfaced this year:

- **Howe Avenue**, Pine Road to Maple Avenue
- **Birch Road**, Hood Avenue to Loomis Avenue
- **Palmer Avenue**, Willow Road to Birch Road
- **Klimm Avenue**, Willow Road to 183rd Street
- **186th Place**, Poplar Avenue to 186th Street
- **Western Avenue**, 175th Street
- **Linden Avenue**, Ashland Avenue to Loomis Avenue
- **182nd Street**, Homewood Avenue to Highland Avenue



## Sidewalk Replacement Program

The Village has a 50/50 share-the cost sidewalk replacement program. Under the 50/50 program, the Village and the homeowner share equally in the costs related to the replacement of deteriorated or hazardous public sidewalks. Residents can assist the Village in maintaining safe sidewalks by making periodic inspections of the public sidewalk next to their home. If a hazardous condition exists, the resident can complete an application and

return to the Department of Public Works. The Engineering Division will inspect the deteriorated/hazardous sidewalk to determine replacement eligibility under this program. The following conditions must exist for repair or replacement consideration:

- walk has sunken or risen to a height difference of one inch or more between sections
- walk is broken or separated into three or more pieces

- 50 percent or more of the surface has deteriorated

If qualified, the request is then added to the ongoing sidewalk replacement list maintained by the Village. In order to guarantee competitive prices, the Village publicly bids the project in the spring of each year. The actual replacement of the sidewalk takes place in the summer months. The total cost is shared 50% by the resident and 50% by the

Village. An invoice will be sent to the resident after the work is completed.

The Village has offered the 50/50 Sidewalk Program to residents for a number of years in an effort to maximize the Village's ability to improve the safety and appearance of the sidewalk network, while enhancing property values. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Project Coordinator at (708) 206-2908.

## Avoid Tree-Topping

According to the USDA, there are eight good reasons why you should not top trees as a method of pruning:

**Starvation:** Topping removes so much of the crown that it upsets a tree's food-making ability.

**Shock:** By removing a portion of the canopy, sunscald may result.

**Insects and Disease:** Large wounds caused by topping rarely callous over. The terminal location of these cuts prevents a tree's

chemically-based natural defense system from doing its job. Also, stubs are highly vulnerable to insect and decaying organism invasion.

**Weak Limbs:** The wood of new growth in the form of sprouts is inherently weak. Rot caused by topping, combined with the weight and weak union of new growth adds to a dangerous situation.

**Rapid New Growth:** Topping causes rapid new growth, which

is often far denser than what was originally there. This causes more wind sail, which leads to more storm damage.

**Tree Death:** Some species of trees are less tolerant to topping as others. The combined effects of genetic make-up, sunscald, insect and fungal invasion lead to an untimely death.

**Appearance:** The grace and character of a tree is destroyed with topping. As a result, the landscape

and community are robbed of a valuable asset.

**Cost:** Topping is much easier than applying the skill and judgment needed for good pruning. Therefore, topping may cost less in the short run. However, the true costs of topping are hidden: reduced property value, the expense of removal and replacement if the tree dies, the risk of liability from weakened branches, and increased future maintenance.

## TreeShare Program

The Village's TreeShare Program offers residents the chance to purchase selected trees at 50% discount. These trees can be planted anywhere on your private

property or parkway area, as long as no utility conflicts exist. The trees come from top-quality nurseries located throughout the Midwest region and are chosen for their

ability to survive in Homewood's soil and climate. Each tree is hand selected and inspected by the Village arborist, then delivered to your property. Go to the Village

website to view spring tree species at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com), under the Parkway Management link or contact the Village Arborist at (708) 206-3396.

### THE BENEFITS OF TREES

Trees help to reduce flooding by intercepting rainfall.

Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 10%.

Homes on lots with many trees have 6-12% higher appraised values.

Shade trees can make buildings up to 20 degrees cooler in the summer.

Tree roots help stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

A community's urban forest is an extension of its pride and community spirit.

Trees clean the air by removing dust, particulates, absorbs ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and other pollutants.

Trees reduce glare and reflection, direct pedestrian traffic, and soften, complement, or enhance architecture or topography.

The amount of oxygen produced by an acre of trees per year equals the amount consumed by 18 people annually.

*Image courtesy of Adam Middleton, Homewood Tree Committee*

# Finance & Manager's Office News

## 13th Annual Spring Breakfast April 20, 2010 | 7:30 AM | Ravisloe Country Club

Sponsored by Homewood's Economic Development Committee and Ravisloe Country Club

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010 the Village of Homewood's Economic Development Committee will host its 13th Annual Spring Business Breakfast. The event will be held at Ravisloe Country Club from 7:30

AM to 9:00 AM. A complimentary breakfast will be provided courtesy of Dr. Claude Gendreau DVM, owner of Ravisloe Country Club.

The focus of this year's breakfast will be Shop Homewood First. Business owners and/or managers wishing to attend, please RSVP to the Community Development Department at (708) 206-3387.

## Parking for Employees of Downtown Businesses

There is free, extended hourly parking available to all employees of businesses operating within the Homewood Downtown Business District. Employees can obtain a parking hanger at Village Hall (with proof of employment) and park in designated areas in the Downtown for longer than the general three hour limit. The designated areas are:

- Hickory Road, Dixie Highway west to Harwood Avenue
- Kroner Parking Lot, southeast corner of Kroner Lane and Harwood Avenue
- Hickory Road Parking Lot, west of Dixie Highway
- Merchant Park Parking Lot, south of Blueberry Hill Pancake House

## Welcome Reflections Yoga Center *By Allisa Opyd, Economic Development Committee*

There are many forms of exercise people do to be healthy. However, there is one tried and true method of exercise that is healthy not only for the body, but for the mind and spirit as well: Yoga — practiced for thousands of years and still strong in the 21st century. Reflections Yoga Center (18675 Dixie Highway) opened in December 2009 as a dedicated yoga center for the community, with options of yoga for all ages.

Reflections Yoga Center is owned and operated by Klaudia Radics and Cipriano Romero.

Radics left Hungary with a Bachelors degree in Economics; however, found the practice of Yoga more fulfilling than economics and decided to pursue it as a career. She completed her certificate training through Yoga Alliance and is an Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher (ERYT).

Romero relocated from Venezuela to Chicago to complete his undergraduate degree as well as his Masters in Business Administration from the University of Chicago. Romero studied Martial Arts for 25 years and found it to have the same philosophy as yoga. Radics and Romero met in Chicago and found that they had much in

common and shared the principles and practice of yoga. After many discussions, the two decided to open a dedicated yoga center. The mission of the center is to offer quality yoga classes and more levels that go beyond beginners, intermediate, and advance.

Identifying the right community that would embrace a Yoga center was an essential business requirement. Radics and Romero found Homewood to be a health conscience community and a good central location in the south suburbs; to date they have clients that come from Indiana, Orland Park, and beyond. Reflective Yoga has two state-of-the-art studios, one specifically used for Hot Yoga. They provide yoga props (mats, blocks and straps), and for after class, herbal tea. Participants can choose from 30 different yoga classes, offered seven days a week, including the always on demand, pre-natal yoga. Part of their quality assurance at the center is that all Instructors must have a minimum of 200 credit hours toward their certification from Yoga Alliance. The center has an extensive yoga boutique, filled with organic yoga clothes, yoga props, and organic supplements, by the brand "New Chapter", organic

## Committee Accepting Nominations through May 28

The Heritage Committee is accepting nominations for the Homewood Hall of Fame. Nomination forms are available online at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com), or at the Village Hall. Completed nominations must be returned by May 28. Mail or

bring to the Village Hall | Attn: Homewood Heritage Committee | 2020 Chestnut Road, Homewood, IL 60430. Do not use drop-box. Inductees will be announced in the fall issue of the Village Key. The Hall of Fame Inaugural Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, October 24.

## Mediation Program

The Community Relations Commission encourages residents to take advantage of the free Mediation Program when neighborly disputes or misunderstandings arise. Homewood is a special place due to its close-knit way of life. Through the Mediation Program, the Village can help residents mend fences and build stronger relationships. The Mediation Program is a voluntary program; it is not a legal service. Residents interested in this program can contact the Community Relations Commission Liaison at (708) 206-3375.

## Employee Recognition Program

The following employees were nominated by their peers and received recognition for outstanding performance in 2009:

### Customer Service Award

- Jan Dinnocenzo, *Administrative Assistant, Village Manager's Office*
- Jennifer White, *Code Enforcer, Economic Development Department*

### Leadership Award

- Kris Norbut, *Executive Secretary, Police Department*
- Dave Lotz, *Mechanic, Public Works Department*

### Most Innovative Idea Award

- Tim Stinnett, *I.T. Manager, Village Manager's Office*

### Outstanding Effort Award

- Aaron Meyer, Doug Hank and Jim Tresouthick, *Landscape and Maintenance, Public Works Department*
- Olivia Serbin, *Landscape and Maintenance, Public Works Department*

### Outstanding Project Award

- Chris DeWall, *Building Maintenance, Public Works Department*

### Positive Attitude Award

- Curt Wiest, *Crime Prevention, Police Department*
- Brian Cantafio, *Mechanic, Public Works Department*

### Safety Awareness Award

- Jim Tresouthick, *Village Arborist, Public Works Department*

### Supervisor Award

- Brian Long, *Streets Supervisor, Public Works Department*

### Teamwork Service Award

- Kirk Lindstrom and Chris DeWall, *Building Maintenance, Public Works Department*

**Reflections Yoga Center:**  
18675 Dixie Highway  
(708) 960-4996  
[ryogacenter.com](http://ryogacenter.com)

Department of Finance & Manager's Office  
2020 Chestnut Road  
798-3000

## All Parking Stickers Expire April 30

All Village parking stickers expire on April 30. This includes Overnight Parking Ban Exemptions, No Parking Ridge Road Exemptions, Central Business District Business Parking, and Central Business District Residential Parking.

Individuals who currently hold any of these parking stickers must renew them during April and May. A new application is required each year.

## Pet Licenses

Pet licenses may be obtained at the Village Hall beginning April 1. All dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed with 2010-2011 tags by May 31. Owners must provide a veterinarian's certificate of a current rabies inoculation. Licensing fees are \$10.00 for the first pet and \$5.00 for each additional animal. The Homewood Municipal Code limits the maximum number of animals to four per household.

## Seniors Get Two Discount Vehicle Stickers

Residents 65 years or older may be eligible for two stickers per household at a reduced rate. Seniors who have already qualified for this discount will have "Senior" printed on the renewal application. These residents may apply for their

## Vehicle Stickers

Residents should receive their Vehicle Sticker Application on Thursday, April 1. The purchasing process is easy with many options for your convenience:

Purchase stickers by mail, in-person, or using the convenient drop box located right outside the front door of Village Hall: 2020 Chestnut Road, Homewood, IL 60430.

Residents who obtained stickers last year will receive a pre-printed application in the mail.

Check the information on the application to make sure it is correct and return with the appropriate payment in the return

## Bicycle Licenses

Did you know the Village requires a one-time license for bicycles? The cost is \$2.00 each; the license is valid for as long as the license holder owns the bike. The serial number on the bicycle is required. Bicycle licenses can be obtained at Village Hall.

## Limited Scavenger License Approved

The Village Board recently approved amending the Homewood Municipal Code to increase the number of licensed haulers for both commercial and residential property from five to eight. There are currently three licensed haulers:

- Homewood Disposal Waste Management
- Skyline Disposal Co. Inc.

Prior to hiring a company to drop off/pick up a dumpster, please contact Finance Department to confirm they are a license holder, or for the company to register with the Village to become licensed to operate.

vehicle sticker by mail at the senior rate of \$5.00. Residents 65 years of age or older who would like to qualify for the senior rate should apply in person at the Village Hall and show proof of age and vehicle ownership.

envelope. Use the non-shaded area for any corrections. BOTH HALVES of the application are needed for processing.

Blank applications can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Vehicle stickers should be displayed on all vehicles beginning May 1.

A late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed for stickers purchased on June 1 or later. Exceptions are new residents of 30 days or less, or vehicle purchased within the last 60 days. Proof of date is required.

All vehicles that are registered or used in Homewood must have a current vehicle sticker.

## E-Newsire

Subscribe Today! Residents are encouraged to sign up for the e-Newsire, a bi-weekly electronic newsletter that features information on upcoming community events, special programs, Village projects, improvements, and service changes, and anything pertaining to life in Homewood. Go to the Village website, homesweethomewood.com, and click on the "Current News" link.

## Residential Garage Sale

If you are planning a garage sale, here are the answers to the most frequently asked questions:

- Sales are limited to two days per residence per year.

- A permit must be posted, with the cost of the permit of \$2.00. Permits can be obtained at the Village Hall.

- No sale items can be located on sidewalks, streets or the parkway.

- Signs posted within the public right-of-way must be on an arterial street leading into your subdivision or street where the sale is to be conducted.

- No more than one may be posted in front of the resident's home where the sale is being conducted.

- Signs shall not exceed four square feet in surface area and not exceed three feet in overall height from the ground to the top of the garage sale sign.

- Signs must be posted no earlier than the first sale date and removed within four hours after the final sale date. Each sign must have the exact date, address and permit number posted.

- Signs must be freestanding and not attached to any utility pole, street sign, structure, or traffic control sign.

- No attention attracting devices such as pennants, streamers, balloons, inflatable shapes, banners, flashing lights or other illumination shall be attached to the garage sale signs or placed in the public right-of-way.

- Garage sale signs are prohibited from being placed at or on signalized stop light intersections within the Village of Homewood.

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# HOMWOOD THROUGH THE YEARS

*Homewood Through The Years* is a 256 page hardcover history of Homewood written by former village trustee Jim Wright who currently is vice-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 *Village Key*, excerpts from the book will be printed chronicling Homewood's history. In this issue read about a tragic accident that affected the Gottschalk family, one of Homewood's earliest and most prominent families.

While Henry Gottschalk initially believed the railroad's expansion in 1890 would provide great opportunity, he soon realized it would be the source of extreme anguish. Sidewalks were almost non-existent during this era and streets were unpaved, making even short walks an unpleasant and muddy experience at times. It was not uncommon for pedestrians to walk amongst the railroad tracks whose rock ballast and wooden ties provided a relatively clean and smooth walking surface. This

practice was dangerous when only one track ran through town and the danger doubled after the second rail track was installed to accommodate suburban trains. On December 11, 1891, Gottschalk's wife Anna, his two-year old daughter Lillian and his sister Marie Witt were killed by a speeding train while walking home along the rail tracks after visiting friends. Marie Witt's daughter, Augusta, was the only one in the group to escape unharmed.

A front-page article in the December 12, 1891 edition of the Chicago Daily Tribune provided these details of the tragic accident that occurred the day before.

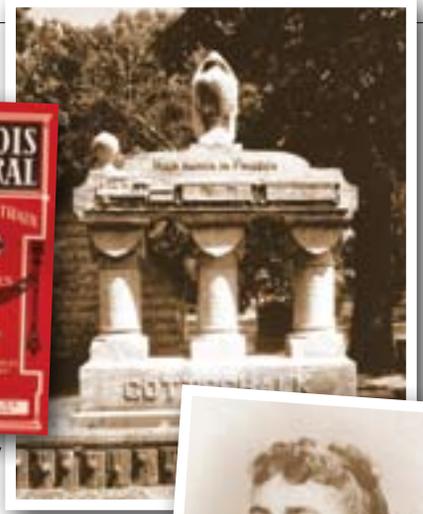
*"The women with their children started across the tracks at the crossing, 100' north of the whistling post at Homewood when a southbound freight came along. The engineer whistled and the women in their fright ran back on the northbound track and were caught by a Cincinnati fast express of the Big Four road. Augusta Witt was more active than her mother and cleared the track before the train reached the crossing. As the express shot past, the child turned and to her horror saw her mother and Mrs. Gottschalk thrown with terrible force a full thirty feet to the side of the track. Neither of the women were badly crushed but death must have been instantaneous, for they were dead before Engineer Ames and Conductor Andregg of the fast express reached them..."*

Little Lillian Gottschalk was

crushed to death by the impact with the train. The Big Four was the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad, which became a part of the New York Central and utilized the Illinois



Illinois Central Schedule



Gottschalk cemetery



Marie Gottschalk



Henry and Anna Gottschalk

Witt along with her brother Theodore and sister Louise were left orphaned.

Henry Gottschalk was devastated by these deaths. Although he would remarry in February 1895 to his wife's sister, Sophia Rabe, the first years after the rail accident

were difficult ones. Gottschalk coped by immersing himself in business pursuits and civic affairs. One cause he worked hard to implement was the proposition of Homewood incorporating and forming a village government.

Central tracks north of Kankakee to reach Chicago. Compounding this tragedy was the fact Mrs. Gottschalk was pregnant at the time of the accident and Augusta

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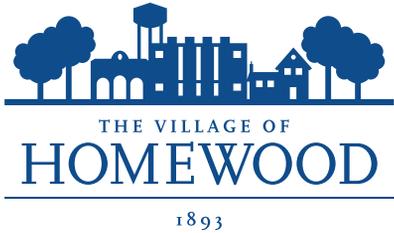
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The Village Key is circulated quarterly to all residents and businesses in the Village of Homewood, Illinois. Comments or questions can be directed to:  
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