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Earth Day in Homewood: April 19  
Green Practices in the Village

Downtown Homewood  
Farmers' Market

Rail Days 2008

"New" Business Section  
e-Newswire

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- April 19** .....Earth Day Celebration, Village Hall Parking Lot  
5 PM to 9 PM, 206-3375  
William McDowell Memorial Fishing Derby
- April 26** .....Homewood Baseball, Opening Day Parade  
Ridge Road – (Irwin Park to Izaak Walton)  
11:00AM kick-off, homewoodbaseballagues.org
- May 3** .....22nd Annual Park Pride Day, Area Parks, 9AM-Noon
- May 10** .....Grandpa's Garage Sale, Lion's Club Pool, 9 AM – 2 PM  
hfparks.com, 957-0300
- May 13** .....Student Government Day, Irwin Center, 7:30PM
- May 17** .....Downtown Homewood Farmers' Market  
Every Saturday (through October 11)  
St. Joseph's Parking Lot, 8 AM – 1 PM, 206-3375  
Annual Homewood Railroad, Heritage Days (Slideshow)  
St. Paul's Community Church  
7PM- 10PM, 957-4743
- May 18** .....Annual Homewood Railroad Heritage Days  
H-F Park District Auditorium, 9AM-3PM, 957-4743
- May 26** .....Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony  
Line up begins at St. Joseph's Parking lot  
Dixie Highway south to Olive Road, west to Harwood Ave.  
(Veterans Park), 206-3422
- June 7 - 8** .....Fine Art Fair, featuring the President's Art Contest  
Irwin Park, 206-3375 (amateur art contest)  
206-3384 (art fair/exhibition)

## 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

### Fire and Police Commission

Quarterly; April 23, July 23, October 22 at 6:00 PM 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 Thursday at 6:30 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
After Hours Water Emergency.....	798-2131	School District 161 .....	647-7000
Prop. Maint./Code Enforcement .....	206-3858	Homewood Flossmoor High School.....	799-3000
Homewood Public Library .....	798-0121	St. Joseph School.....	798-0467
Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce .....	206-3384	Homewood Community Academy.....	799-6912



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Richard A. Hofeld  
Village President

### Saturday Morning Office Hours

For the past ten years, 'most every Saturday from 9am till noon, I've sat at a card table in the lobby of the Village Hall where residents can meet with me. In that time,

Saturday hours are very special to me. I love being accessible and speaking with you. Some of you have become "regulars" and stop by to talk or just tell a joke. Others have made me aware of residents

come in and always ask good questions. (I encourage them to become involved in student government activities so that perhaps someday I can stop by and visit with them when they become

"Saturday hours are very special to me. I love being accessible and speaking with you."

over more than 500 Saturdays, I've delighted in greeting new residents, addressed seniors' services, heard citizens' concerns, and have received many compliments on Village services, events, and our economic development efforts.

who are in need of Village or social organization services. Some make me aware of persons who may be violating local codes or even the law. Young men and women who need to interview a "government official" for a class or for scouting

our elected officials!) Residents who have their ideas for new development, or questions about "what is going in on that corner" also stop in.

President's Message  
*continued on page 4*

# "I Never Thought This Was Possible!"

The year before I retired, I was on medication for high cholesterol and incipient osteoporosis. My physician wanted me to take blood pressure medication. When I retired, I vowed to lose weight and improve my health. I joined the St. James Health and Wellness Institute. During the past year, I have participated in classes ranging from Cycling to Yoga and I've worked with a Personal Trainer. I've seen progress in all areas, although the most dramatic has been in strength. I can do things I watched other people do and thought, "Never." Well, there is no such thing. Through St. James, I am doing what I thought was impossible.

**Best of all, I no longer take any medications!**



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## President's Message

*continued from page 3*

Staff members from all Village departments take their turn in joining me each Saturday. One Saturday it may be the Director of Public Works, the Police Chief or the Village Manager. Each department head and their assistant volunteer to join me on these Saturdays. I find this to be very beneficial, as often-times questions that are asked of me can be answered by them, particularly if the question pertains to their department. Additionally, staff members then become more aware of some of the matters that are of importance to Village residents.

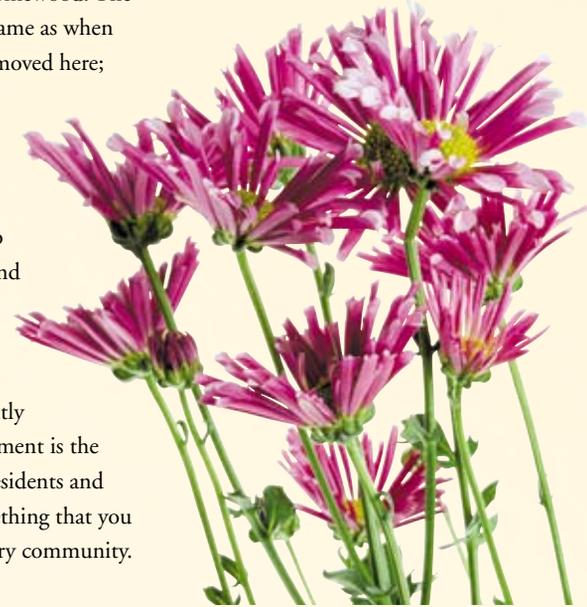
Over the years, many of the matters brought before me on Saturdays have been addressed and some new programs implemented.

Some that come to mind are:

- Stop signs and street lights at locations throughout town. (Please report any non-operating street lights and missing or defaced street signs to Public Works, 206-3470).
- Creating a list of insured / bonded contractors that can perform work in Homewood.
- Tree trimming efforts throughout the Village.
- Directing citizens to the proper governmental agency to assist with their needs.
- Addressing storm water concerns.
- Advising property owners regarding zoning.
- Informing potential businesses of the benefits to locating in Homewood.

I always enjoy being a "listening ear" to everyone who stops by. It is wonderful to greet new residents and inquire where they had moved from and how they "found" Homewood. The reasons are the same as when most of us first moved here; a welcoming community, good schools, great park district, access to transportation and convenient quality shopping. Another frequently mentioned statement is the friendliness of residents and businesses; something that you don't find in every community.

I give new residents the assurance that we are not only a friendly and caring community but we are special – we are Homewood!



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Community Relations Commission Celebrates 23rd Block Party Season

Homewood's Block Party Program is an integral focus of the Community Relations Commission. The commission believes that a strong community is

built one block at a time and that through this program residents are transformed into neighbors as they build lifetime relationships with one another. Community Relations

Commission reminds block party coordinators that the Village facilitates an online application process and that all resources to plan and coordinate their event

are found online at [Blockparties.homesweethomewood.com](http://Blockparties.homesweethomewood.com) (do not enter WWW). Or visit the Village homepage and click on the block party link.

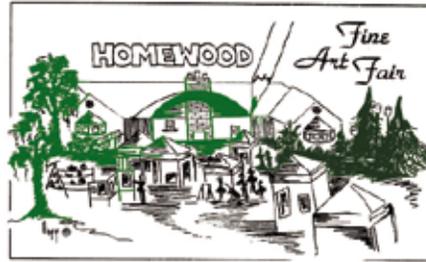
## 27th Annual Fine Art Fair & Exhibition featuring the President's Art Contest

The Village of Homewood's President's Art Contest is held in conjunction with the well-respected and widely acclaimed Fine Art Fair scheduled for Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8 from 10 AM to 5 PM at Irwin Park (Highland and Ridge in downtown Homewood).

A favored exhibition at the Fine Art Fair is the annual President's Art Contest, an amateur art contest, featuring artists and

photographers of all ages.

Entries will be accepted through Friday, May 30th. Applications for the contest are available online or at Village Hall. Entrants may submit work in 2-D and 3-D mediums, such as photography, oils, watercolors, charcoal sketches, sculptures, jewelry and more. There are three age categories:



Youth (5-9), Teen (10-14), and Adult. The subject matter is limitless; however, all entries must depict something about

Homewood.

Applications for the contest are available online or at Village Hall. For information on these workshops and to register, visit [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com) or contact 206-3375. The Fine Art Fair is sponsored by the Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce, and H-F Park District. Inquiries should be directed to the Homewood Area Chamber at 206-3384.

## Drivin' The Dixie 2008

On Saturday, June 21st, participants will rev their engines for the seventh annual "Drivin' the Dixie" sponsored by Homewood's Heritage Committee. Drivers will come from Naperville, Peoria, Indiana, and Michigan to participate. Over 200 vehicles are estimated to tour the historic Dixie Highway, sampling cuisine, entertainment, and games at 11 different stops. Thousands will come out to view the vast array of antique cars and participate in the fun activities at each town along the historic highway. Drivers will travel from Blue Island to Danville – approximately 105 miles.

Homewood's stop on the tour will be action-packed with live entertainment, food, and family activities, including a car show and "People's Choice Award."

**Who Can Drive?** You don't need a fancy car to drive. Family cars are welcome to join vintage cars on the tour. All tour participants must register.



**How Do I Register?** Pre-registration is \$10 per car. Registration day of event is \$15 per car. Registration includes refreshments, windshield decal, historic brochures, key chain, lunch, free concert, and live entertainment. For registration information, call the A's R Us,

Chicago Southland Chapter Model A Ford Club of America at 596-6302.

The Heritage Committee encourages residents and



businesses along Dixie Highway to decorate the outside of their house or storefront in red, white, and blue as car buffs from all over enter Homewood. The "Best Dressed" house or storefront (determined by the Heritage Committee) will be recognized in the winter issue of the Village Key.

Drivin' the Dixie is brought to you by the Homewood Heritage Committee and the A's R Us-Chicago Southland Chapter-Model A Ford Club of America

with communication support provided by Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, and the participation of 10 extraordinary Dixie Highway communities. For general Dixie information call 798-9535 or visit [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com).

Homewood's Heritage Committee initiated Drivin' the Dixie, expanding its route through the years from Blue Island to Danville. In 2005, this event won a Superior Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society for its innovative way of linking towns together, and promoting history.

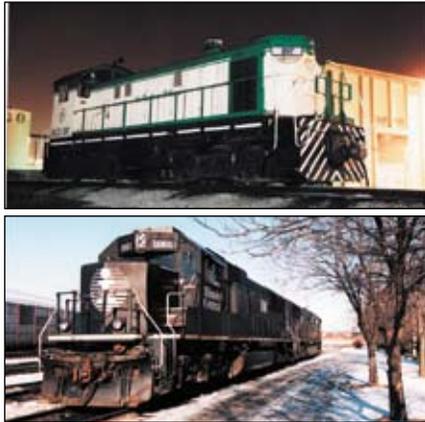
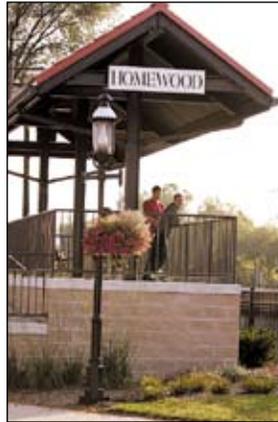
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Visit the Train Watching Platform and Rail Park this Season

By Joe Krol, Rail Committee Member

The Train Watching Platform and Rail Park projects were funded by various government grants, as well as corporate and civic donations. Canadian National Railway (CN) donated the caboose featured in the Rail Park and the Diesel locomotive was acquired through the financial assistance of CN and the National Railway Equipment Company. The engine and caboose were restored and repainted through the generosity of CN at its Woodcrest shop located in Homewood.

Both the Train Watching Platform and Rail Park afford Homewood residents, rail fans, and area visitors the opportunity to watch the local daily operation of the CN and enjoy two vintage pieces of Illinois Central equipment from the historic "Main Line of Mid America". The Train Watching Platform, located east of the railroad tracks on Harwood Avenue (just south of Ridge Road), is wheelchair accessible and features a scanner broadcasting radio communication from the nearby rail yard activity.



Photos courtesy of: above: Michael MacDonald, top right: Randy Olsen, bottom right: Paul Burgess

The Rail Park located west of the railroad tracks on Park Avenue, sits between the Homewood Metra/Amtrak Station and Dixie Highway.

The train station pedestrian tunnel provides safe and easy walking access between both sites. In the tunnel, rail fans and commuters can enjoy a number of murals produced from artwork completed by students from Homewood-Flossmoor High School. Each mural depicts Homewood and Illinois Central railroad history.

Everyone is invited to enjoy

Homewood's rail fan sites and the warm hospitality provided by downtown merchants and restaurants.

The Village of Homewood and its Rail Committee are grateful for the generosity and cooperation of its partners: CN Railways, Union Pacific Railroad, National Railway Equipment Company, Hulcher Heavy Equipment Services Company, Metra, PACE Transit Agency, Homewood-Flossmoor High school art department, and Homewood Rotary.

### Homewood Railroad Heritage Days 2008

**Saturday, May 17, 7 PM**

**Railroad Slide Show**  
St. Paul Community Church  
18200 Dixie Highway  
(Church Basement)

Illinois Central Railroad and other railroads will be presented by nationally recognized rail photographers and historians. Light refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, May 18,**

**9 AM – 3 PM**

H-F Park District Auditorium  
and Village Hall Complex  
2010 Chestnut Road

The auditorium will have model train layouts, a wide variety of railroad-related vendors, and demonstrations. Village Hall will have a working model train layout. And of course, plenty of food and refreshments will be available. Visit the Train Watching Platform and Rail Park and the Metra/Amtrak station tunnel to see new murals, depicting Homewood's longtime history with the rail.

Check online for details, or call 957- 4743.

## Farmers' Market Season

Downtown Homewood's Farmers' Market will open June 7th and close October 11th. The market is held every Saturday in the St. Joseph parking lot located at 17951 Dixie Highway. Market hours are 8 AM to 1 PM.

Downtown Homewood's Farmers' Market offers a vast array of products and produce that are homemade and hand sown from gourmet, organic, and specialty vendors. Returning this year, Carrie's Savory Delights, Dorcas Designs, Fatty's Gourmet Baked Goods, Etalaya's Exotic Mandel Broit, Witvoet Farmstand, Hansel Farms, Herr Farms, Labriola Breads, Sweet Home Kettlecorn, Paula Newton's Jams and Jellies, and the Tattered Gardener, along with six new vendors – offering fresh cut flowers, coffee and tea,

culinary herbs, and specialty meats and cheeses.

For more than two decades, Homewood's market has linked local farmers to consumers with fresh nutritious foods. For market information, please call 206-3375. Or visit the village website at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com).

#### Shop Fresh – Shop in Season!

**Apples:** June – November  
**Artichokes:** July – August  
**Asparagus:** April – June  
**Beans:** June – August  
**Bell Peppers:** July – November  
**Berries:** June – September  
**Cabbage:** May – July;  
September – November  
**Carrots:** June – September  
**Cauliflower:** August – October  
**Cherries:** May – July  
**Corn:** July – October  
**Cucumbers:** August – October



Farmers Market images are courtesy MacDPhoto.com



**Eggplant:** June – October  
**Garlic:** June – November  
**Grapes:** July – October  
**Greens:** May, October,  
November  
**Herbs:** August – October  
**Horseradish:** June – November  
**Leeks:** May – August  
**Lettuce:** April – June; August –  
October  
**Melons:** June – September  
**Nectarines:** June – September  
**Okra:** June – October  
**Onions:** April – November  
**Peaches:** June – September

**Peas:** April – November  
**Plums:** June – November  
**Potatoes:** June – November  
**Potatoes (sweet):** August  
– November  
**Pumpkins:** August – November  
**Radishes:** May – October  
**Rhubarb:** May – October  
**Spinach:** April – June; September  
– November  
**Sprouts:** May  
**Squash:** May – November  
**Strawberries:** May – June  
**Tomatoes:** June – October  
**Turnips:** June – October

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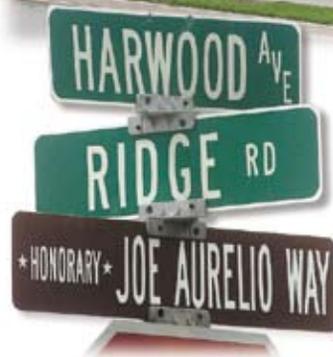


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# POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

## e-Watch Program Goes Wireless

The Electronic Neighborhood Watch Program (e-Watch Program) is used by the Police Department to disseminate information to the public via e-mail. Information may include the dissemination of criminal activity, requests for assistance in solving crimes, the quelling of unsubstantiated information or rumors regarding criminal activity, crime prevention tips and information on special events involving the Police Department.

The Police Department is now expanding the e-Watch Program to include notification to cellular phones via text message. If you would like to sign up for e-Watch alerts please visit [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com). To receive text messages, you must enter your cellular phone number as an email address. A list of common carriers is shown below. If your carrier is not listed, please contact them for assistance.

Text message addresses for

common cell phone carriers:

- Alltel  
10digitphone#@message.alltel.com
- AT&T  
10digitphone#@txt.att.net
- Boost Mobile  
10digitphone#@myboostmobile.com
- Cricket  
10digitphone#@mms.mycricket.com
- MetroPCS  
10digitphone#@metropcs.com
- Nextel  
10digitphone#@messaging.nextel.com
- Qwest

- 10digitphone#@qwestmp.com
  - Sprint  
10digitphone#@messaging.sprintpcs.com
  - T-Mobile  
10digitphone#@tmomail.net
  - Virgin Mobile  
10digitphone#@vmobl.com
  - Verizon  
10digitphone#@vtext.com
- To ensure receipt of emailed alerts, add [electronicneighborhoodwatch@village.homewood.il.us](mailto:electronicneighborhoodwatch@village.homewood.il.us) to your address book.

## Chief Burnson Named 2008 Police Chief of the Year

Police Chief Larry Burnson was selected by the Illinois State Crime Commission as the 2008 Police Chief of the Year. Chief Burnson was selected by Jerry Elsner, Executive Director, along with the Board Members of the Illinois State Crime Commission due to

his impressive achievements and service to many professional and civic organizations.

The Illinois State Crime Commission is the largest organization committed to combating public corruption and strengthening the Illinois criminal

justice system in this state. The membership and board of directors comprise many of the state's most influential leaders in government, law enforcement, education, labor, business, and in public policy.

Chief Burnson has served Homewood's Police Department

as chief since 2001. He is a former President of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Assisting Chief Burnson, are Deputy Chiefs Dale Gustafson and Jim Gannon.

## Outdoor Warning Siren Information

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. However, they will not be able to reach everyone immediately.

Homewood has an outdoor warning siren system to alert Village residents of serious weather or hazardous conditions. Sirens are located at the Municipal Service Center (1775 Ashland, Patriot's Park - 187th Street and Center Avenue, 183rd Street and Stewart Avenue). The siren units contain three preprogrammed voice

messages, which should be audible throughout the Village. The three preprogrammed voice messages are:

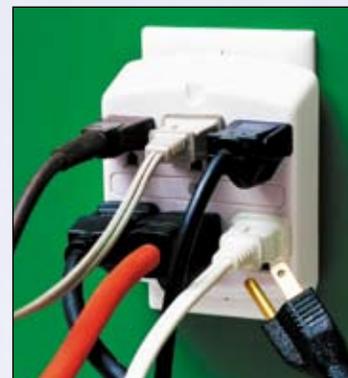
1. Attention - This is a test of the outdoor weather warning system. This is only a test.
2. Attention - A tornado warning is now in effect. Do not delay. Seek shelter now.
3. Attention - A hazardous materials incident has occurred. Go indoors now. Close all doors and windows. Turn off all heating and air-conditioning equipment.

The outdoor siren system (siren tone and voice messaging) is tested the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM.



## Electric Fires: Handle With Care

All fires are dangerous and pose a threat of injury due to flames and smoke, but an electrical fire poses the threat of shock or electrocution.



If an electrical appliance catches fire, first try unplugging it or shutting the electricity off at the fuse or circuit breaker box (do not reach over the fire to do this). Once the electricity is cut off, most appliance fires will go out. If you cannot shut off the electricity, do not use water on the fire. Water conducts electricity and

you could be badly shocked. A fire extinguisher marked with the letter "C" is approved for use on electrical fires.

Remember, electrical fires can begin in the wiring concealed in

the walls. If you smell smoke or the odor of electrical burning, call the Fire Department immediately and get everyone out of the house. It is always better to call the Fire Department and find out you have no problem than to delay the call and lose your home to an electrical fire.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS!**

## Spring Safety Tips Courtesy of the Fire Department

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 per manufacturer's instructions.
- Don't store propane in your home or garage.

### Fire and Burn Safety

- Choose a safe spot for the barbecue grill, if it is portable. Take into account the wind direction and the paths that children use.
  - Keep the barbecue away from combustibles such as leaf piles, overhangs and houses.
  - Tell children not to go into the area of the barbecue grill whenever the grill is hot, whether or not food is cooking.
  - Never leave the grill unattended, and be ready to extinguish accidental fires by having a garden hose or a bucket of water

nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.

- If you use charcoal, use only charcoal lighter fuel.
- Prevent

burns by using long handled barbecue tools and/or flame retardant mitts.

### LP Gas Barbeque Safety

- Always store gas cylinders outside and away from structures.
- Turn off the cylinder valve when not in use.
- Never use the barbeque inside. This is not only a major fire hazard, but may also introduce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide (CO)



inside the building.

- When in use, keep the barbecue away from anything that will burn.
- Check your connections frequently to ensure that they are gas tight. To test, use a water/soap mixture on the connections and fittings. Look for bubbles, which indicates leaking gas.
- Always open the lid before turning on the gas to light the barbecue.

## If Disaster Strikes...

Many types of disasters could occur in the Village, such as tornado, flood, earthquake, toxic chemical spill or cloud, or a major fire. If a disaster occurs, a loud continuous siren holding its pitch for three minutes will sound. This means the outdoor warning system has been activated. After the siren sounds, a voice message may follow.

- Go indoors and turn on your

radio to one of the emergency broadcast stations (WCGO - 1600 AM or WHFH - 88.5 FM)

- Listen for further information and instructions
- **Do not call 9-1-1 to obtain information.** Dispatch personnel will be busy answering requests for assistance and disseminating information to command posts. Call 9-1-1 only if you personally have an emergency situation

## HPA Scholarships

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 2008 scholarship are now available. 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. The application deadline is April 30th. Questions should be directed to HPA Secretary Kristine Norbut at 206-3422 or knorbut@homesweethomewood.com

## Fire Department Part-time Opportunities

Part-time employment opportunities with the Fire Department are open to persons between the ages of 18-35 years. Both Homewood and non-Homewood residents are welcome to apply; non-Homewood

applicants must be at least an Illinois State Firefighter II and EMT-B certified at time of application.

New non-certified recruits will receive in-depth training in firefighting techniques and become

State certified firefighters. Non-certified applicants accepted into the recruit firefighter program will participate in in-house training to prepare for one of the seven (7) month fire academy programs, beginning in September 2008 or

January 2009.

If you or anyone you know would find part-time employment with the Fire Department challenging and rewarding, we encourage you to call 206-3400 or visit the Fire Station for further details.

# BUSINESS NEWS

## NEW INCENTIVE PROGRAMS BOOST BUSINESS

### Businesses Go Green and Get \$ Green

Homewood officials are offering some green to encourage clean, green businesses.

The Go Green Reward Program encourages business owners located in the Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) Districts to implement green initiatives that may increase the efficient use of water, reduce energy

usage, and minimize pollution.

Eligible changes consist of green roofs, rain gardens, native plantings, energy-efficient lighting, passive solar systems, hot water recirculation, and EnergyStar windows, doors, and furnaces.

A limited amount of funding is available annually for each TIF

District included in this program. (Funding for projects in the Washington Park TIF must be completed by the end of the 2009 fiscal year). Funding is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. The amount of funding for an individual project is at the sole discretion of the Village Board. If a project is

approved by the Village Board, participants must expend private funds and then will be reimbursed for qualified expenditures up to, but not exceeding, 50 percent of the eligible expenditures.

### Strengthening the Retail Mix Worth \$10,000

Business owners are encouraged to diversify their product offering and expand retail space through the Retail Enhancement Incentive Program. New and existing retail businesses in the Central Business District and Southgate shopping area are eligible for the incentive when they expand their retail space by at least 20 percent (gross floor area)

and add new types of merchandise within the Village's desired retail mix. Desired retail businesses and products include clothing, books, toys, specialty foods, electronics, sporting goods, entertainment venues, and more.

Qualified expenditures may include build-out costs for new or expanded retail space (must facilitate

new merchandising), the first three months of rent, moving/relocation costs, visual merchandising, retail consulting, real estate brokerage or commission fees (new businesses only), and media marketing or advertising (not to exceed half of the eligible expenses). Participants may be eligible to receive reimbursement of up to \$10,000 through this

program upon review of application and business plan.

For comprehensive details on each of the incentive programs, business and property owners should contact the Community Development Department at 206-3385. Or, visit the homesweethomewood.com.

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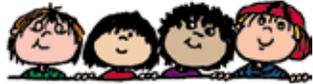
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## Façade and Property Improvement Program Gets Facelift

Village staff revamped the Façade and Property Improvement Program in an effort to assist property owners with the enhancement of their properties. Limited funding is available for exterior improvements that make a visual enhancement.

Owners of buildings in the TIF Districts may also receive

financial assistance for building electrical, plumbing, and sprinkler upgrades; exterior wall coverings, lighting, canopies or awnings, and the screening of unsightly utilities and/or dumpster. Participants must repair outstanding exterior code violations as part of participation in this program.

## 10th Annual Spring Business Breakfast

On Tuesday, April 29th, the Village of Homewood's Economic Development Committee will be hosting its 11th Annual Spring Business Breakfast. The event will take place at Ravisloe Country Club and will begin at 7:30 AM and end by 9:00 AM. A complimentary breakfast will be served to all attendees. Guest speakers will be local business

owners, who will speak on why they have chosen to locate and stay in Homewood. The purpose of the breakfast is twofold; a tribute to Homewood business owners, and an opportunity for networking. Businesses in Homewood are invited to attend. Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to contact the Community Development Office at 206-3385.

## Promotion Tip: Face-to-Face Rules

Community events enhance the quality of life in Homewood and they also provide unique opportunities for residents and businesses to engage in ways traditional marketing can not provide.

Through events, residents connect with the business community by meeting the faces

of those who own or operate the organization. Residents can also taste, touch and see the latest products and services offered by the business participant.

If you are interested in sponsoring or participating as a vendor, contact the Community Information Office at 206-3375 for a complete list of opportunities.

*A special thanks to the businesses that sponsored, Holiday Lights in Homewood the shop-and-dine-by-carriage event: Bella Vita, Bogart's Charhouse, Eighner's Florist, Harvest Home & Garden, Homewood Area Chamber, Hungry Hill Sausage Company, Mama & Me Pizzeria, Melody Mart, Skin Solutions, Art 4 Soul, Aurelio's Pizza, Bamboo Blue,*

*Suzie's Hallmark, The Village Door, Homewood Florist, Tom's Family Restaurant, Insight Awareness, Asian Harbor, Artistix Salon, Nathalie's Interior, Nielsen's Bakery, Spaab, and Super Loot.*



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# HOMEWOOD LIVES GREEN

## Going Green Yields Positive Dividends for Homewood

By John Williams Jr., writer & resident

At 4.56 billion years of age, give or take a several thousand millenniums, the planet Earth is exhibiting signs of wear and tear. To slow this erosion, many local governments, both here and abroad, are embracing “green practices” to reduce waste, conserve energy, and sustain natural resources. Through a number of environmental programs, the Village of Homewood is doing Kermit the Frog proud.

For the past six years, Homewood has participated in Commonwealth Edison’s load reduction program, an initiative designed to make communities active partners in shaping their energy future. When alerted by the Exelon company that area electricity demands are approaching critical levels, the Village reduces power usage in buildings and operates the water plant via a generator.

“Energy conservation is important to the Village because it translates into savings,” says Assistant Public Works Director Joe Jakubowski. “By reducing energy costs, we free up tax dollars for other projects.”

This commitment to

conservation is evident across-the-board in Homewood. Through an Illinois Clean Energy grant, all lighting fixtures in the fire and police departments will be switched to low energy-high efficiency bulbs by this spring. New windows at the fire, police, and public works departments boast e-film, a thin, transparent barrier, that blocks 99.5% of the sun’s ultraviolet light, minimizing summer heat and winter cold. Programmed digital thermostats are fixtures in administration buildings and Village employees are urged to turn-off idle lights and electrical appliances.

Being green takes a conscientious effort, and Jakubowski believes it is important for the Village to set a good example for residents by embracing fiscally responsible green initiatives.

About 70% of the Earth is covered with water, making it one of the planet’s most precious natural resources. Communities everywhere are adopting green practices to protect, improve, and conserve the water supply.

From area reforestation projects

to cutting-edge biofilters, the Homewood Water Department has implemented a host of proactive measures. Reforestation, the systematic restocking of neighborhoods and woodlands with native tree stock, reduces the volume of water in the Village’s storm drainage system and aids in flood prevention. One tree, according to University of Illinois research, intercepts 1,000 gallons of rainwater annually.

Chemicals, pollutants, and bacteria in storm and wastewaters can pose serious risks to plants, animals, and humans. Prairie Lakes Business Park, near 175th Street and Halsted, features a 15-acre wetland with a state-of-the-art biofiltration pond that naturally treats drainage water from area stores and parking lots.

Under the stewardship of Utilities Supervisor Bob LaChapelle, the Village Water Department implores residents to join in its conservation efforts by observing lawn water

sprinkling regulations between May 15th and September 15th of each year and ensuring storm water drainage grates near homes are free of debris.

Reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality is an integral part of Homewood’s conservation agenda. Striding toward this goal, the Village has transitioned to reduced emission certified engines and cleaner burning bio-diesel fuels in non-emergency vehicles.

While initial maintenance and performance issues are common in vehicles when fuels are switched, Homewood Fleet Supervisor David Ebert says no major detours have been encountered. “To date, no fuel related issues have occurred and our diesels seem to be running cleaner and with less smoke,” he states.

The Village “green fleet” undergoes regular upkeep activities, such as tune-ups and proper tire inflation, to maximize mileage and ensure optimal performance in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emission standards. Rare emission test failures

Homewood LivesGreen  
continued on page 21

## A Greener Generation!

By Randi Montecki (Tree Committee)  
& Regina Zofeld (Willow School)

Willow School and the Homewood Tree Committee have teamed up to construct an interactive butterfly garden for students at Willow School (1804 Willow Road). The garden will be a place of beauty and learning for all.

Bordered with painted wood planks to resemble a yard stick, the butterfly garden will consist of low maintenance perennials chosen for

bloom times that coincide with the school season.

Wood benches, painted with butterfly images by Willow’s art classes, will be placed at the front of the garden with a worktable to facilitate hands-on learning and fun.

The garden will be ADA accessible with tables and grass walkways wide enough to accommodate an adult-size wheelchair.

A separate area will be set aside for students to plant their own

vegetable garden to emphasize Willow’s Bee Healthy program, which teaches the importance of eating the right foods.

In addition to the butterfly and vegetable garden, smaller gardens will be planted, including a Crayola garden, representing all the different colors in the crayon pack.

This entire project incorporates the school’s current natural science

and math curriculum, but emphasizes the environmentally friendly concepts of solar power and natural energy. Students will engage in agricultural activities and learn how to better steward the earth’s resources for daily living.

The butterfly garden will be a beautiful learning environment for students and staff at Willow School for years to come.



## Go-Green Day is Saturday, April 19 Reduce...Reuse...Recycle

The Village is hosting an event to encourage residents to be environmentally responsible and GO GREEN. On Saturday, April 19 from 8 AM to 12 PM at the Village Hall parking lot located at 2020 Chestnut Road, eco-minded residents will have an opportunity to participate in many environmentally-friendly activities:

### Paper Shredding & Recycling

Residents can minimize their risk for identity theft by having their personal documents shredded onsite by an industrial shredding company. The destroyed documents are then recycled so that they can be reused as office paper, tissue paper, paper towels, and toilet paper.

The service is free-of-charge, courtesy of Harris Bank (Homewood). Staples and paper clips do not need to be removed, only binders. For the basic guidelines to personal records retention, visit the Village website.

### Rain Barrels & Rain Gardens

The Village will be providing rain barrels to residents through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). Rain barrels are used to collect and store rainwater from downspouts and rooftops. It is estimated that for every inch of rain that falls on a catchment area of 1,000 square feet, approximately 600 gallons of rainwater is collected.

Reusing rain water for landscaping maintenance, especially during the dry months, will greatly reduce water system stress in Homewood.

The cost per barrel is \$40.00. They will be available on a first-

come, first-serve basis only. The barrels are available in black.

The Village has coordinated workshops, courtesy of Prairie Godmothers, LLC, to teach residents how to incorporate rain barrels in their landscape. Prairie Godmothers, LLC will provide practical information on how to assemble rain barrels and establish a rain garden.

Prairie Godmothers, LLC educates homeowners on how to “green” their lawns and improve their curb appeal. Green gardening is a movement designed to adapt landscapes to the environment where they will require less upkeep, water, and chemicals.

### Light Bulb Distribution

The Village has partnered with the Northern Illinois Energy Project to offer, free-of-charge, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL) to residents in an effort to reduce energy consumption in Homewood. CFL light bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. They also save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb’s lifetime. CFL light bulbs will be distributed, free-of-charge, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### Reduce Your Carbon Footprint – Reforest Today!

Residents can offset their carbon footprint by joining the Tree Committee in tree planting activities. In preparation for Arbor Day (April 26th), the Committee will be planting over 150 trees in the Crescent Basin (Governor’s Highway

at 183rd Street). The trees are being planted to diversify neighborhood trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer and to continue reforestation goals. Planting trees is a major step in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the atmosphere. Trees absorb carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and wood, both of which are very useful for humans and other animals. Planting activities will begin at 10 AM.

### Homewood’s Green Partners to Join Event

A contest was held at Willow School for students to design a logo for canvas shopping bags in an effort to reduce paper and plastic waste. The winner of the contest will have their design featured on the bag, which will be available for purchase at the event.

Homewood Disposal launched its first residential recycling effort in Homewood (1990).

Now, 29 communities participate.

Homewood Disposal will provide information on the recycling processes of cardboard, newspaper, junk mail, magazine, plastic bottles, aluminum and tin cans, and glass bottles.

They will explain how the processing facility works and how materials received in mixed form are sorted by type and prepared for market to be reused in various forms.

Homewood residents are an important link in this recycling process and Homewood Disposal will

discuss ways residents can increase the reusability of common household waste items and assist the recycling process to extend the life of natural resources.

### Homewood’s Commitment to Green Living

Homewood’s Go-Green Day echoes the commitment of the Village Board who adopted a resolution endorsing the Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago, proposed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, to improve the region’s environment through residential water conservation practices, e-waste recycling opportunities, and energy conservation programs.



Stay tuned to e-waste recycling opportunities



# Finance & Manager's Office News

## STICKERS AND LICENSES REQUIRED

### Vehicle Stickers on Sale Now

Vehicle stickers may be purchased by mail or in person at the Village Hall. Residents who obtained stickers last year will receive pre-printed applications in the mail.

Residents are asked to update and correct any information on all applications and return them with the appropriate payment. New residents and those having purchased additional vehicles can obtain

applications at the Village Hall.

Vehicle stickers should be on all vehicles beginning May 1st. A late fee of \$25.00 will be imposed for stickers purchased after June 1st. Exceptions are new residents of 30

days or less, or vehicle purchases within the last 60 days. Proof of date required. All vehicles that are registered or used in Homewood must have a current vehicle sticker.

### Seniors Get One Discounted Sticker

In Homewood, 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 sticker by

mail at the senior rate of \$5.00. The application requires a signature and driver's license number. 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.

### Pet Licenses

Pet licenses can be obtained at the Village Hall or by mail through May 31st. All dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed with 2007-2008 tags.

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.

### Village Wins Award for Event Promotion

The Village of Homewood received the Illinois Special Events Network (ISEN) Skyscraper Award for best creativity in event promotion. Community Information Coordinator Rachael Jones and Assistant Events Coordinator Chris Beele received three awards for best in-house advertising designs for Holiday Lights in Homewood, and Dog

Days of Summer. Entries were judged by a panel of graphic design and marketing professors from Columbia College (Chicago). Competitors represented municipalities and park districts throughout the State. The Illinois Special Events Network and Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau have hosted the awards convention for more than ten years.

### All Parking Stickers Expire April 30th

All Village parking stickers expire on April 30th: Overnight Parking Ban Exemptions, No Parking Ridge Road Exemptions, Business Parking, and 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.

### Water/Sewer Deposit for Renters

New renters will be required to pay a \$100.00 deposit when they sign up for water service.

### Bicycle Licenses

Bicycle licenses are also required. The license is valid for as long as the license holder owns the bike. The cost is \$2.00 each. The serial number on the bicycle is required.

### Making the Switch to Digital *By Dennis Leaks, Manager's Office Intern*

In February of 2009, all full-power television broadcast stations will stop broadcasting in analog format and will begin exclusive broadcast in digital format.

Certainly there are a number of questions to ask: When? Why? And, for some, even huh? Fortunately, this switch-over is not as difficult as it sounds. Here is a brief description of why things are changing and how it will affect you:

Congress mandated that television broadcast stations use all-digital broadcasting to free up analog frequencies. The analog

frequencies used by television stations are shared with the same frequencies used by police departments, fire departments, and other emergency rescue teams.

On Tuesday, February 17, 2009 the frequencies will no longer be used by television broadcasting stations. This change will allow public safety and emergency response organizations to maximize their communication frequencies.

The bonus for TV viewers is that digital broadcasting allows for improved picture and sound quality and increased

programming options.

If you have free, over-the-air television programming (not cable or satellite), you will need to have a television with a built-in digital tuner. Effective March 1st, all televisions shipped in interstate commerce or imported to the United States are required to have digital tuners. Retailers must identify any televisions to be sold that do not have a digital tuner after that date. If your television does not have a digital tuner you can purchase a digital-to-analog set-top converter box that attaches

to your television set.

Until March 31, 2009, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is administering a program that allows U.S. households that only receive free, over-the-air programming to request up to two coupons (worth \$40 each) to be used towards the purchase of digital-to-analog converter boxes.

For more information concerning coupons and the switch from analog to digital broadcasting visit [dtv.gov/consumercorner](http://dtv.gov/consumercorner).

## Village Manager Announces 2007's Outstanding Employees

Village Manager Mark Franz announced the outstanding performances of 2007 at the annual employee luncheon held in December of last year. Recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by the Village's Employee Recognition Committee. The committee coordinates programs each year that recognize employees for their outstanding service to the residents of Homewood and their fellow employees. Each recipient represents the Village's standard for excellence.

### Customer Service Award

*Officer Curt Wiest - Police Department*

Officer Wiest is the department's crime prevention officer, child safety seat technician, and liaison to School District #153. He addresses any incidents regarding the district. The department regularly receives compliments about Officer Wiest's willingness to assist students and staff in the schools and his outstanding community involvement at events such as Homewood Days and National Night Out. Officer Wiest is proud to be a police officer and regularly provides excellent customer service to the public and his fellow employees.

### Leadership Award

*Officer David Lux - Police Department*

As a police cadet coordinator, Officer Lux is responsible for recruitment, schedules, training, and overall supervision. Officer Lux is also a field training officer and responsible for training many of the department's new and current officers in firearms and pepper spray instruction. The department regularly receives compliments about Officer Lux's willingness to assist citizens and his fellow officers. He has always served as an outstanding role model for those he trains.

### Most Innovative Idea Award

*Rachael Jones - Manager's Office*

Rachael has increased private sector monetary support and participation of Homewood's

community events through the development of sponsorship programs. In the past, events have operated on a small budget, hindering growth and the Village's ability to meet the demands of the overall community. The revenue generated through the sponsorship programs has surpassed the amount originally budgeted, providing the funds to expand infrastructure, entertainment, activities, and marketing. The sponsorship programs have proven to be a win-win situation—sponsors meet their promotional objectives and the Village can continue to enhance the quality of life in Homewood.

### Safety Awareness Award

*Aaron Meyer & Doug Hank*

In an industry (tree care) that is ranked as one of the most hazardous, Doug and Aaron approach each task with a "safety first" mentality. They move flawlessly throughout the field due to their high degree of professionalism and skill.

### Supervisor Award

*Dennis Bubenik - Finance Department*

Those working under Dennis consistently express their appreciation of his supervisory skills. They state that he always takes the time to explain in detail what is required of the task and the best way to do it. Dennis makes sure that his staff has the resources they need to get the job done and ensures each member is recognized for their accomplishments.

### Outstanding Project Award

*Liz Moran - Fire Department*

POC Firefighter Liz Moran has worked on the Village of Homewood's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in an effort to become compliant with the United Stations National Incident Management System (NIMS). Liz brought all of the department's associated resources together and combined them into one comprehensive and cohesive plan that would comply with the federal government's mandates. Liz

deserves to be commended for her dedication and resourcefulness in achieving this result.

*Max Massi & Don Anderson - Public Works Department*

Max and Don have done an outstanding job with the Downey Manor Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project. From the development of the plans and specifications, to overseeing the project construction, including complete removal and replacement of roadway, sidewalk, and driveway aprons, Max and Don have received compliments from residents commending their organizational skills, attention to detail, and overall management of the project.

### Positive Attitude Award

*Dorothy Johnson - Finance Department*

When Dorothy was hired in March of 2007, she was immediately asked to take on additional responsibilities while learning the responsibilities of her new position.

Dorothy provided the Manager's Office and Village Board administrative support during a personnel transition while exceeding expectations within her new position. Dorothy handled each additional request with a pleasant and positive approach.

*Chris Dewall - Public Works Department*

Chris always has a smile on his face. He has a pleasant personality, great sense of humor, and sense of fairness. Chris consistently works well within all departments and with each employee. He handles each request with a positive attitude. Chris' hardworking and positive approach to each request is a model for all employees.

### Teamwork Award

*Beth Barron (Community Development), Bill Ernat (Community Development), John Schaefer (Public Works), Brian Long (Public Works), Max Massi (Public Works), & Harry Hammock (Public Works)*

This team worked tirelessly to coordinate the installation of the downtown way-finding signs. Each member worked well together to ensure the location and messages were clear and safely located. The cooperation between both departments made the results of this project outstanding.

### Outstanding Effort Award

*Tim Robertstad - Manager's Office*

Through Tim's creativity and vast knowledge of editing technology, the programming for HCTV Channel 4 has reached a superior standard. The Village receives numerous compliments on the variety of programs shown. Tim goes the extra mile to capture community events and produce programs for the channel that will improve communication between the Village and its residents.

### Special Humanitarian Award

*Dale Demro - Public Works Department*

In January of 2007, while performing routine snow plowing duties early in the morning, Dale located a young child wondering the streets in his pajamas. The temperatures were well below freezing. Dale stopped what he was doing to rescue the child from the cold. Unable to provide his address, Dale contacted the police department and then traced the child's footprints back to a nearby home. When Dale rang the door bell the mother was shocked to discover her child was not in bed. Dale's quick response and genuine concern contributed to the safe return of this young Homewood resident.

## Did You Know?

The Village employs 119 full time employees in Administration, Finance, Public Works, Fire, Police and Community Development. It also has an additional 81 part time employees on payroll as paid-on-call Fire personnel, Auxiliary Police Officers and Crossing Guards. Over 77 employees have more than ten years experience. Homewood is privileged to be served by many long time, dedicated employees.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEES 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 Barbara Dawkins to the Fire and Police

Commission, Marnel Scott to the Beautification Committee, Alvin Hendricks to the Cable Television Commission, Chris Jones to the

Veterans Committee, and Michael S. McGrory and Tamie A. Christmas to the Community Relations Commission.

## VETERANS' COMMITTEE NEWS One of the Village's Best-kept Secrets

By Dennis Leaks, Manager's Office Intern and Active Reservist

Established by the Board of Trustees just seven years ago, the work before the Committee has become increasingly important since its inception. The tragic events of 9/11, forever in our memories, happened just three months before the Committee's first anniversary.

In our nation's effort to combat terrorism and safeguard the freedom

of the American people, we have been a nation at war over the last few years. As veterans return home, we want to offer more than kind words, firm handshakes, and pats on the back (while these are all important in welcoming them home!). We want to help in their transition back home by providing information for the healthcare, educational benefits and employment opportunities that so many veterans struggle to find when they return home.

The Veterans Committee is a great opportunity to not only serve the troops while they are overseas but to honor them at home, here in Homewood. Anyone who has served in the United States Armed Forces and is a resident of Homewood, or a past resident, can join.

Help us honor the brave men and women who serve our nation by serving them here on our own doorstep.

For more information about the

Committee you can write to us or call:

HOMWOOD VETERANS COMMITTEE  
17950 Dixie Highway  
Homewood, IL 60430  
206-3422

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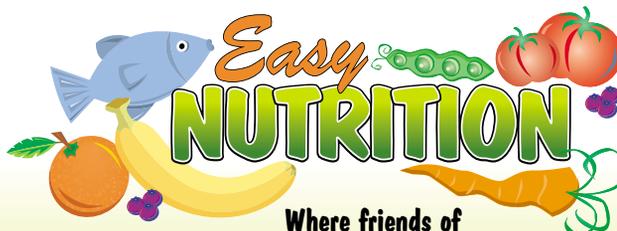


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# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

## Take Pride In Where You Live

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 in both residential and nonresidential structures. Structures and premises that are not in compliance are required to be altered or repaired to meet code requirements, which are intended to represent the minimum acceptable level of public health and safety.

During inspections, primary attention will be given to the lack of maintenance of the siding, roof, gutters, window frames, exterior paint finish, and landscaping. Consideration will also be given to fences, exterior stairways, decks, porches, driveways and walkways

in disrepair, and property littered with rubbish. The condition of these building components may seem like small matters. However, if left unattended, they can provide a path for the elements to begin the structural deterioration of the property. Simple corrective measures are the key to protecting and maintaining property values that will ensure a strong return on the money, time, and hard work property owners invest in their property.

Thank you for your cooperation. Working together will keep Homewood a safe, healthy and prosperous community. Questions may be directed to the Code Enforcement Division at 206-3857.



## SHOP HOME SWEET HOMEWOOD

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

**Asian Harbor**  
1930 Ridge Road

**Jimmy Johns**  
18048 Halsted Street

**Easy Nutrition**  
18035 Dixie Highway

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

## Get The "Scoop" Before You Dig!

Underground utilities exist everywhere, even in your yard. Whether you're a homeowner or excavator, digging without knowing

where it's safe can cause tremendous damage and even loss of life. Before you dig call J.U.L.I.E. for utility locations at 1-800-892-0123.

## Branch Chipping

Branches are accepted at the Municipal Service Center (17755 S. Ashland Avenue) on the first Saturday of each month (except holiday weekends) from 8 AM until noon. Proof of Homewood residency is required. Items that will not be accepted are evergreens, string or wire, stumps, leaves, bags,

construction waste, contractor waste, and branches larger than six inches in diameter. The chipped mulch is available to residents to use in gardening and landscape areas to conserve moisture and control weeds. This program runs through November.

## Don't Forget Your Building Permits

### *Are You Planning a Home Improvement?*

Building permits are required for demolitions, all new construction, and most home improvements, including replacement roofs, windows, siding, fences, sheds, porches, patios and decks, garages, swimming pools, hot tubs, and electrical, plumbing, concrete and asphalt work. Contractors must be registered with the Village before they will be issued a building permit.

To avoid delays with your home improvement projects and having to pay unnecessary penalty fees, apply early for your building permit (plan review takes approximately two weeks). Do not begin construction until a building permit has been issued. If you have any questions as to whether a permit is required for your construction project, please call 206-3858 or visit the Building Division located on the second floor of the Village Hall.

## Meet Your Merchants

Businesses are invited to contact the Community Development office to schedule an appearance during "Meet Your Merchants." Meet Your Merchants is a segment of the Homewood Village Board Meetings. The Village Board Meetings are recorded and shown on HCTV channel 4. Businesses who have appeared on Meet Your Merchants may also be selected by the Economic Development Committee for a feature in an issue of the Village Key.

The following businesses appeared on Meet Your Merchants

during the winter season:

- Asian Harbor, 1930 Ridge Road
- Edible Arrangements, 18310 Governors Highway
- Home Made Pizza Company, 18324 Governors Highway
- Rookies Family Sports Pub, 17501 Dixie Highway
- Shooting Stars Kids Creative Network, 18036 Gottschalk Avenue

To schedule an appearance, contact the Community Development Office at 206-3385.

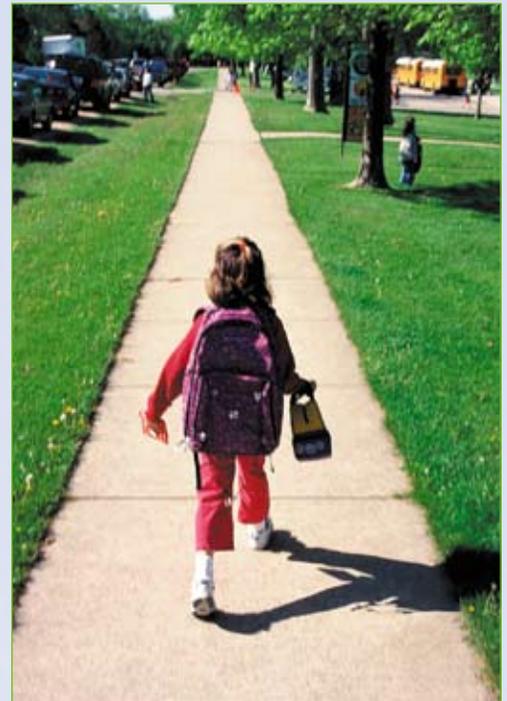
## Sidewalk Replacement Program

by Donald Anderson

The Village of Homewood 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 replacement of deteriorated or hazardous public sidewalks. You can assist the Village in maintaining safe sidewalks by making periodic inspections of the public sidewalk abutting your home. If a hazardous condition exists, please complete an application to the Department of Public Works, 17755 Ashland Avenue. Upon receipt of completed applications, an employee of the Homewood Engineering Division will inspect

the deteriorated/hazardous sidewalk to determine replacement eligibility under this program. 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 you and 50% by the Village. You will be sent an invoice after the work is completed. The following will give you an idea of the anticipated costs. The Village has offered the 50/50 Sidewalk Program to Homewood residents for a number of years. We

feel this project maximizes the Village's ability to improve the safety and appearance of the sidewalk network along with enhancing the value of your property. Please give consideration to assisting in this effort. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 206-2908.



## Village of Homewood Cook County, Illinois 2008 M.F.T. Street Resurfacing Program

The 2008 Street Resurfacing Program project is located within the corporate limits of the Village of Homewood.

The project includes the resurfacing of the following various Village streets:

- Hart Drive from Morgan Avenue to Olive Road
- Jamie Court from Jamie Lane to Cul-de-sac
- Chayes Park Drive & Court from Sacramento Avenue to Governors Highway
- Knollwood Lane from Kedzie

Avenue to Kimball Avenue

- Washington Avenue from Golfview Avenue to Hawthorne Road
- Evergreen Road from Poplar Avenue to Hood Avenue
- Homewood Avenue from Willow Road to Evergreen Road
- Howe Avenue from Spruce Road to Dead End
- Poplar Avenue from 183rd Street to 187th Street
- Lathrop Avenue from 175th Street to Dead End
- Marilyn Court from Hoffman

Way to Cul-de-sac

- Bretz Drive from Ridge Road to Dead End
- Hoffman Way from 175th Street to Cul-de-sac
- Maple Road from Hoffman Way to Halsted Street
- Presidents Drive from Maple Road to Cul-de-sac
- Hickory Road from Perth Avenue to Stewart Avenue
- Stewart Avenue from 183rd Street to Crescent Drive

### e-NewsWire Sign-Up Today!

Homewood's e-NewsWire is a bi-weekly electronic newsletter, containing up-to-date information to residents and businesses about the projects, programs, and plans of the Village.

Subscribers can choose to receive several different updates on upcoming events, emergency issues, job listings, veteran news, and the quarterly newsletter – all, electronically. Subscribers will also be able to participate in important surveys that will help shape Village initiatives. Subscribe today!

# MEET YOUR MERCHANT

## An Inside Look: Hungry Hill Sausage Company

By Allisa Elliot-Opyd, Economic Development Committee

The Specialty Shop's sausage is back! It can be found at Hungry Hill Sausage Company located in downtown Homewood. After The Specialty Shop (Chicago Heights) closed its doors in 2005, residents craving the wonderful sausage urged James Fares, son of "Specialty Shop" owner Jim Fares, to reopen the doors and continue producing this one-of-a-kind sausage. James, now President of Hungry Hill Sausage Company, knew if he was to start a new sausage company he would have to follow the same formula his father used.

This would not be an easy task. James left his corporate job as a graphic designer to start his research. James researched vendors, machines, and had to master the famous, family recipe. Once his research was completed, it was time to identify a town to build his store. James

grew up in Homewood, attended St. Joseph School and graduated from Homewood-Flossmoor High School. And, since Homewood residents who patronized The Specialty Shop in Chicago Heights had encouraged James to reopen the doors, Homewood was a natural fit to continue the legacy. James opened Hungry Hill Sausage Company in downtown Homewood on Monday, July 16, 2007. Old and new customers alike agree that Hungry Hill Sausage Company delivers the same fine quality as The Specialty Shop.

What makes this sausage incomparable is the quality of pork. Hungry Hill Sausage Company will only use pork that is from corn and grain fed hogs and only uses the best cut - from the butt shoulder. There are no fillers or preservatives - only natural spices. The handmade sausage comes in mild, hot, fennel, and Polish.

Hungry Hill Sausage Company offers a unique shopping experience for its customers. Not only can patrons purchase quality sausage, a full selection deli is offered with Italian meats, cheeses, deli meats, salad, ½ pound sausage patties, hamburgers, and meatballs. To complete the shopping experience, customers can find specialty pasta sauces, Italian breads, olives, tapenades, along with desserts, cannoli, and tiramisu. And soon, Hungry Hill Sausage Company will provide online shopping through its website - James has discovered the best way to ship his sausages so they maintain their fresh and superior quality.

Hungry Hill Sausage Company is committed to the community. It



supports a local baseball team, and participates in local fundraisers and events with the Chicago Bears. Last November, Hungry Hill donated 250 pounds of sausage to Chicago Bears' Brendon Ayanbadejo's Thanksgiving giveaway to needy families.

So come out and visit Hungry Hill Sausage Company located in downtown Homewood at 18217 Dixie Highway. Hours of operation: Monday through Friday/9AM to 6 PM; Saturday/8 AM to 5 PM; and closed on Sundays. For more information call 799-4455, or hungryhillsausage.com.

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**Homewood LivesGreen**

*continued from page 12*

– due to faulty vehicle gas caps, improperly tuned engines, and other minor issues – are easily remedied.

Stressing that “cost savings” and “green fleet” are words that seldom appear together in a sentence, “Ebert notes that Homewood’s significant investment in new technologies and alternative fuels reflects its dedication to a healthy environment.

Every year, over 125 million cell phones are discarded in the United States and many end up in landfills. Over time, toxic mercury, cadmium, lead, and other poisonous materials contained in these devices decompose and leak into ground water, polluting streams and drinking water.

As a champion of Cell Phones for Soldiers (CPFS) program, the Village is making important contributions to the environment and American troops overseas. Three years ago, Village Program Coordinator Lisa Syren learned about a grassroots program that

collected discarded cell phones at drop-off sites around the country and sold them to recycling companies. Proceeds were used to purchase phone calling cards for soldiers serving abroad.

“I was intrigued, so I looked the program up on the Internet to find out more,” Syren recalls. With the backing of Village Manager Dave Niemeyer and the support of the Homewood Veterans Committee, a CPFS drop-off location was established at the Village Hall. Through press releases and newspaper advertisements, news about the inspiring program was spread to area residents and businesses.

The community response, says Syren, has been tremendous. “I’ve lost track of how many boxes of phones we’ve mailed to the program.” Residents wishing to contribute can leave donations in the Village’s main lobby or log on to [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com) to download and print pre-paid postage labels.

The earth’s natural resources are finite. Unfortunately, many animals, insects, fish species, and lands that balance and nurture our environment are disappearing because of reckless and indifferent ecological practices.

“To eliminate nature from our lives entirely robs us of our connection to the land,” says Jim Tresouthick, Village Landscape and Maintenance Supervisor.



National and state spending to protect green space, undeveloped areas that remain open for flora and fauna habitat, is diminishing at an alarming rate. The Village of Homewood, however, is safeguarding and preserving its natural resources through a number of programs, including:

The Parkway Tree Trimming Program promotes healthier trees through regular maintenance. Well-managed trees in urban areas increase property values by 6 -13% and decrease utility expenditures by more than 25%.

Storm damaged branches and

brush are turned to mulch and reinvested in urban forests and green spaces through the Tree Branch Chipping Program.

The TreeShare Program promotes reforestation by providing residents the opportunity to purchase trees at marked savings.

The Integrated Pest Management Program uses birds and predatory insects to control populations of harmful pests in Homewood that can infest and damage trees. For example, a habitat in the Izaak Walton League encourages bluebirds to feed on destructive insects.

As a trained arborist, Tresouthick urges everyone to reconnect with the majesty of nature. “The cicada infestation last year is an example of how disconnected we’ve become. We should have looked at the cicada emergence in awe and not fear. These creatures, which traveled five miles since Abraham Lincoln was president, released nutrients back into the soil, fed wildlife, and offered us something different in our lives.”



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# 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, Suzie's Hallmark and the Homewood Historical Society Museum, 2035 -183rd Street. For more information contact 708-799-1896. In this and future editions of the Key, excerpts from the book will be printed chronicling Homewood's history. In this issue read about Homewood's Nike missile installation and radar base, which after the "Keep it Green" Campaign is now Patriots Park.*

One half mile to the north on 187th Street, the site of Patriots Park today, the Army constructed a companion radar facility which could not only detect incoming foreign aircraft but would also track the missiles once fired. This base included five radar platforms that were enclosed in large and distinctive white spheres shaped like golf balls. The radar site also included the headquarters and administrative offices, barracks and mess hall for

day shifts and were on call at night if needed.

In October 1962 all personnel were on duty after the United States confirmed that the Soviet Union had begun to construct nuclear missile bases in Cuba. These bases were being constructed to house both medium range and intermediate range ballistic missiles, the latter of which were capable of reaching targets up to 2200 nautical miles. These missiles placed most major

base were on the highest state of alert and the twelve Nike missiles found there were "hot"- pointed skyward and ready to be fired - for three full days. This was the only time in the base's existence that the missiles were raised for a real threat.

By 1974, all Nike batteries, including Homewood's, were phased out with the exception of four batteries in Florida and Alaska. In the end not a single missile was ever fired from a Nike installation.



During this period, now known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, soldiers at Homewood's Nike base were on the highest state of alert and the twelve Nike missiles found there were "hot"...

"Construction of the Homewood Nike missile base commenced in the fall of 1954 on cornfields in the southeast section of town. Located in the 19000 block of Halsted Street, three large underground concrete reinforced vaults were built to house the missiles and their launching platforms. Unless the missiles were raised, no trace of these bunkers or their contents would normally be visible. When completed in the summer of 1955, 18 Ajax missiles were installed at this base. Six of these first generation Nike missiles were installed in each pit and carried a conventional warhead capable of destroying a single aircraft. Second generation Nike Hercules missiles were installed at the Homewood facility in 1959. Each vault was equipped with four of these nuclear warheads, which could target several aircraft at once. Third generation Nike Zeus missiles were never placed in Homewood.

both facilities. A tennis court rounded out the amenities at this location.

After construction was completed, 92 officers and enlisted men of the United States Army's 22nd Antiaircraft Group staffed the Nike units in Homewood. In 1963, civilian reservists took over operations and manned the missile and radar facilities until they were deactivated in 1974. Days were filled with maintenance, repairs, training and drills. Radar had to be monitored and security was always tight, day and night. At the missile site, guard dogs patrolled the grounds after dark. The facilities were staffed around the clock, although many technicians and administrative personnel worked

U.S. cities-including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles- within range of nuclear attack. On October 22nd, President John F. Kennedy made this discovery public. Kennedy also ordered a "quarantine" around Cuba, which blocked any further Soviet ships from reaching the island nation and he demanded the removal of the missiles already there. If ignored, Kennedy warned there would be "a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union".

During 13 days in October 1962, October 16th -28th, the world came as close as anytime before or since to the brink of nuclear war. During this period, now known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, soldiers at Homewood's Nike

Following deactivation of the facilities in Homewood, Reserve units utilized the buildings and grounds at the radar base through 1984. That year a new building was built for these units at the former missile base on Halsted Street and Illinois National Guard units then occupied the 187th Street buildings until they were finally abandoned in 1990.

For the next decade, the land and buildings on 187th Street remained vacant until the federal government gave them to the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District. All buildings on the site were demolished and construction of a beautiful park, appropriately named Patriots Park, was completed in 2002."

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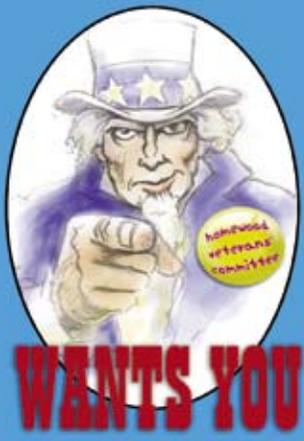
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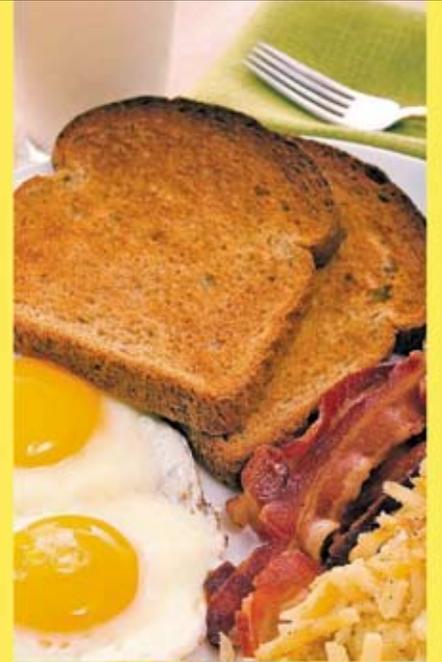
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