



H O M E W O O D

VILLAGE KEY

SPRING 2009



Rail Fest

Sunday, May 17, 2009

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Village Hall, H-F Park District
Auditorium, Rail Platform and
the Rail Park, all in Historic
Downtown Homewood**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
New Website
Mediation Services
Spring Events
Sticker and License Deadlines

homesweethomewood.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- April 1** Pre-printed application for vehicle stickers mailed
- April 2** Last day for early voting at designated locations chosen by the County
- April 7** Consolidated Election
- April 9** Voter's registration re-opens at the Village Hall
- April 21** Economic Development Committee
Business Appreciation Breakfast
Calumet Country Club, 7:30 AM to 9 AM
Contact the Community Development Department to register at 206-3385
- April 25** Homewood Baseball Opening Day Parade
Ridge Road to Izaak Walton Baseball Fields, 11 AM
Visit homewoodbaseballleagues.org for details
- April 30** 2008/09 Village parking stickers expire
- May 17** Annual Homewood Railroad Heritage Days:
H-F Park District Auditorium, 9 AM to 3 PM
Contact Rail Days Event Coordinators at 957-4743
- May 25** Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, 10 AM
Dixie Highway, south to Olive Road, west to Harwood Avenue, Ceremony held at Veterans Park on Harwood Avenue
Contact the Police Department at 206-3422
- June 1** Late fees assessed on vehicle stickers
- June 20** Drivin' the Dixie, Antique car tour along historic Dixie Highway, 11 AM to 2 PM
Dixie Highway at Hickory Road
Contact Village Hall for details at 798-3000
- June 20** Art and Garden Street Fair and Farmers' Market opening

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 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

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 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
- homesweethomewood.com • hfisgreat.com



RE/MAX
South Suburban
708-798-1333

Now's the time to trust the Southland's Leader in Real Estate

Only Full-Time Professional Agents since 1979

BUYING or SELLING
Call

RE/MAX
South Suburban
First!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Richard A. Hofeld
Village President

Main cover image courtesy of Paul Burgess, member of the Rail Committee

Other images courtesy of Frank Casella, member of the Rail Committee

Over the past 12 years Homewood has been very fortunate to have been recognized by retailers and restaurants as being “a great place to do business.” During this period of time I have acted as a “facilitator”; bringing together retailers, developers and property owners. Homewood has been “blessed” in that many uses most requested by you, have come to Homewood.

I am often asked if “we can get” a Trader Joe’s, Portillo’s or a bookstore. It has not been for a lack of trying. Several years ago we conducted a very impressive letter writing campaign to these retailers to complement our efforts to attract them. Although each received quite a few letters, it appears that it wasn’t

good enough.

Trader Joe’s is owned by Aldi’s, a German company. I have written several personal letters to their Chairman, and to attract his attention, they were written in German. I don’t speak a word of German, but I was fortunate to have my letters translated into German by a Homewood resident. I then received a reply from the President of Trader Joe’s that said they were not expanding further in the Chicagoland area at this time. I shall continue to keep open our lines of communication, accentuating how they would be warmly received and highly successful were they to locate here.

The perfect site for Portillo’s would be the empty out-lot in front

of the Super K-Mart. Adjacent to a traffic signal, for easy access, I have been told by some regional developers familiar with our Halsted Street corridor that this could easily be one of Portillo’s better sites. Through persistence, I am on a “first-name” basis with Dick Portillo’s secretary, the way to reach a decision-maker! I have “reached out” to developers who have “done deals” with Portillo’s in the past, corresponded with Dick Portillo, but thus far without success. My next option may be “camping out” in his office lobby!

A bookstore is also challenging. Borders, Barnes and Noble, Anderson’s, Barbara’s, Books-A-

President’s Message
continued on page 4

Your Hometown Plumber Since 1987!



Peter Aleck, Owner

Aleck
PLUMBING

Residential Service Specialists

Call us FIRST
for all of your plumbing needs!

- Residential & Commercial
- Service Repairs
- New Construction
- Sump Pumps, Water Heaters, Sewer and Drain Rodding



(708) 799-4670
(815) 469-6080

www.aleckplumbing.com

18027 S. Crawford
Homewood, IL

President's Message

continued from page 3

Million and independent operators have been approached. So many book sales are now taking place over the internet and at large discounters, retail booksellers are having difficult times. You may have heard the recent radio commercials for "Half Price Books", a concept new to the Chicagoland area. Based in Texas, I am now reaching out to them to highlight a possible Homewood location.

We all know that these are very difficult economic times. Businesses, large and small, have been impacted by the current times as a consumer-driven recession, and this appears to be the case. Downturns in two of our country's most important industries,

automobiles and housing, have adversely impacted the whole economy. As a result almost all new retail development has come to a halt.

At the last International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) meeting I attended in Chicago, a prominent developer told me that a shopping center he is building in a far western high growth suburb has come across difficult times. Although he has signed leases with national tenants, they are being canceled. He, like so many property owners, has what we all are reading about; empty stores, no retailers! We in Homewood are fortunate. Most of our businesses are indeed feeling the business slow-down but thus

far have been able to continue their operations. That is why it is so important when spending our dollars; we shop Homewood and patronize our businesses and restaurants.

We, like so many other prosperous towns, have been affected by the national chains that have suffered business let-downs and as a result were forced to close many, or in some cases, all of their stores. Three of these chains in Homewood were: Bakers Square, Hollywood Video, and Office Depot. Yet for each of these closures, over the past 5 years we have seen five times as many new stores open. I am always in contact with the property owners or financial institutions owning

closed properties and continue to highlight them to prospective users; if not for immediate use, then for a use "down the road".

These are difficult times for us all. Some jobs have been lost, others are in question. Expenses increase; while a great many of us have seen our income, savings, and investments reduced. Hopefully our new President, who appointed a brilliant staff of economic advisors, will help to turn the economy around. Our prayers are with him.

I'm confident that our local economy will preserve and in time become even more prosperous. For, when it comes to Homewood, like my own blood-type, my attitude is always, B-Positive!

No Daytime Contacts... No Glasses... No Surgery... Just Great Vision!



Correct your vision while you sleep with safe, non-surgical Paragon CRT® therapeutic contact lenses, and enjoy great vision 24 hours a day, without the hassles of glasses and daytime contacts.

Contact us for more information.



KIRSCHNER

VISION GROUP

2156 W. 183rd St. • Homewood, IL • (708) 957-7700
www.kirschnervisiongroup.com

Mulch Masters

LOWEST PRICES IN THE AREA!

Proud to be a Green Company

Over 60,000 yards
of variety mulch in stock
featuring

COLORED &

(Brick Red, Cedar, Cypress, Dark Brown, Forest Brown, & Black)

Premium Hardwood
Mulches

708-889-9600

Now Selling Weed Barrier Fabric!

\$10 OFF

PURCHASE OF \$100 OR MORE

Residential Only, Excluding Delivery
Must mention coupon at time of ordering.
Coupons cannot be combined or valid with any other offer. Coupon expires 06/30/09
Mulch Masters 17900 Harper Ave. • Lansing, IL
code: HVK

10% OFF

WEED BARRIER

Residential Only
Must mention coupon at time of ordering.
Coupons cannot be combined or valid with any other offer. Coupon expires 06/30/09
Mulch Masters 17900 Harper Ave. • Lansing, IL
code: HVK



ADVISORY BOARD NEWS

Appointments

David Rebec to the Veterans Committee
 Regina Zohfeld to the Tree Committee
 Marjory Dalton to the Senior Advisory Committee
 Pamela Dennis to the Economic Development Committee
 Kathi Knight to the Community Relations Commission

Block Party Planning Season

The Community Relations Commission would like to remind residents that the official start of Block Party season is June. The Block Party application form and party planning resources are available online at homesweethomewood.com, under the Events link.

Seniors - Beware of Scams

The Senior Advisory Committee and Police Department urge seniors to beware of scams. Con artists are not always easy to spot. Smart, extremely persuasive, and aggressive, they invade your home through the telephone and the mail, advertise in reputable newspapers and magazines, and come to your door.



Use common sense and learn about some old and new scams:

“Eat free gourmet meals, buy high-end clothes and make up to \$60 an hour.” Check marketing companies affiliated with the Mystery Shopping Providers

Association (www.mysteryshop.org) Mystery Shoppers should be compensated by assignment not by the hour.

Make sure your tax person knows what they are doing; otherwise,

you may land in hot water with the IRS. Check the IRS web site (www.irs.gov). Watch out for bogus IRS emails asking for personal

information. Contact the IRS by phone. The IRS, FBI, Social Security Administration or any other tax-supported office will not email you.

Don't do business over the phone with someone you don't know unless it's a call you originated.



Penny Drive

The Homewood Heritage Committee, in honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, organized a "penny" drive at School District 153, Saint Joseph School, and area businesses. The total collected by the schools was \$2,238.57 and \$226.36 was collected by local businesses. What a wonderful 200th birthday gift for Mr. Lincoln! The money collected will go to the Homewood Library. With such an enormous amount, the Homewood Library will be able to purchase a wide variety of books about our 16th President.



METT Therapy Services at WellGroup Health Partners
 211 Dixie Hwy., Chicago Heights, IL
 (708) 709-6534

PHYSICAL THERAPY
 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
 SPORTS REHABILITATION

Please call our facility for a **FREE** screening

www.METTtherapyservices.com

Your Goals Can Be METT!

**HOMES ARE BARGAIN PRICED
 CALL ME SOON**



Homewood Resident
 for 36 Years
 Licensed in
 Illinois & Indiana

**PAULA
 MATTHEWS
 REALTOR®**

(708) 256-1218

paula.matthews@cbexchange.com



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
 1056 Sterling Avenue, Flossmoor, IL 60422
ColdwellBankerOnline.com
 Owned And Operated By NRT Incorporated

LIVING SPRINGS PRESCHOOL



Classes for 3's, 4's, & 5's

We cover Academics and more!

- Christian Values
- Social Skills and Manners
- Enrichment Program

Register Now!

Call for more information or a brochure

(708) 709-0100

19051 S. Halsted, Glenwood, IL



708-647-9999

18328 Governors Hwy. • Homewood, IL

**BUY ONE
 SANDWICH
 & GET THE
 SECOND
 SANDWICH**

FREE

With this coupon • After 4 p.m. only.

Check Yourself from Head to Toe at April 19 Health Fair!

Valuable free screenings and low-cost school physicals are highlights of the 26th anniversary of the FREE FAMILY HEALTH FAIR, co-sponsored by the Homewood Rotary Club and Ingalls Health System. Check yourself from head to toe on Sunday, April 19, from 9 AM to 2 PM, at James Hart School in the H-F Sports Complex, 183rd & Aberdeen in Homewood.

More than 35 screenings and services include a free total cholesterol blood test, along with a free 12-lead EKG, cancer screenings and much more... making this community health event unparalleled!



Blood tests are one of the most popular stations at the fair, nearly 700 people take advantage of tests that include a free total cholesterol and a \$10 lipid profile.

Discounted blood tests include a \$10 full lipid profile (HDL, LDL and triglycerides). Check Ingalls website for information on prices and fasting information on the chemistry profile, CBC/anemia test, thyroid profile, hemoglobin Alc for diabetes, and a prostate (PSA) blood test for men not enrolled in Medicare.

Popular FREE displays such as mini-stress massages and screenings such as scratch tests for allergies, vision exams, hearing tests, foot screenings and more will return, as will valuable cancer screenings. 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



Health Fair Crowd



Mayor Rich Hofeld attends every year, greeted here by Susan Fine from Ingalls.

glaucoma screenings, back and neck chiropractic exams, and much more.

Bring in your children for a \$15 school physical that includes all necessary immunizations. Please bring all paperwork and forms that



Rotarian and chiropractor Gary Nordbrock is credited with initiating this fair 26 years ago.

need to be completed.

And, in addition to all the services you can receive, you can also give a little back. LifeSource Blood Center will be conducting a blood drive on site at the health fair.

Appointments are not necessary for any of the day's screenings, but for more health fair information, call Ingalls Care Connection at 1-800-221-2199, or register ahead online at www.IngallsHealthSystem.org.

Serving the
Southern Suburbs
since 1972



Voted "Best Gift Shops"
Chicago Southland
1996-2008

SUZIE'S HALLMARK SHOP

Featuring the Complete Hallmark Collection

- A Dept. 56 Gold Key Dealer -
Snow Village, Dicken's Village, North Pole, New England & Christmas in the City
- Snow Babies • Precious Moments • Cherished Teddies
- Yankee Candles & Potpourri • Willow Tree Angels
- Webkinz, Crocs Shoes and Gifts for All Occasions.

18065 Harwood Ave, Downtown Homewood, IL
phone: (708) 799-2810 fax: (708) 799-1475

Preferred First Painting

Residential and Commercial

- Interior/Exterior
- Power Washing
- Drywall Repairs
- Deck Cleaning

Free Written Estimates

Locally Owned and Operated
Let's take pride in our community!

Spring Special
10% Off
any exterior work
done in April or May

708-799-3899 • 708-668-3133



Experience
The
M&M
Difference

- Roofing • Windows • Entry Doors
 - Siding • Soffit • Gutters
- Celebrating 33 years of quality



- Windows
- Entry Doors
- Patio Doors
- Siding
- Soffits
- Gutters
- Fascia
- Skylights

Crete 708-756-7800 Mokena 708-478-1076
www.m-mcorp.com

Employee Recognition Program

Village Manager Mark Franz announces the winners of the 2008 Employee Recognition Program. 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
Dorothy Johnson
Community Development Department

LEADERSHIP AWARD
Bob Pettigrew
Department of Public Works

MOST INNOVATIVE IDEA AWARD
Carolyn LaChapelle and Betty Deenik
Police Department

SAFETY AWARENESS AWARD
Jim Denman, Roy Janich, Paul Poninski, and Bill Alcott
Police Department

SUPERVISOR AWARD
Larry Burnson
Police Department

OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARD
Rachael Jones
Manager's Office

POSITIVE ATTITUDE AWARD
Eric Havel
Public Works, Water Department

Chris Beele
Manager's Office

TEAMWORK AWARD
Kirk Lindstrom, Chris DeWall, and Joe Jakubowski
Department of Public Works

OUTSTANDING EFFORT AWARD
Kris Norbut
Police Department

Dave Lotz
Department of Public Works

SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD
Tim Stinnett
Manager's Office

AURELIO'S

THE FAMILY PIZZERIA



Nothing says Homewood more than Aurelio's Pizza.

Founded in 1959 by Joe Aurelio, Aurelio's has been the meeting place for all occasions for five generations. Joe Aurelio's strong belief in commitment to community led the village of Homewood to place honorary street signs in his name along Harwood Avenue. Today, Aurelio's continues its commitment to community in all of its 40 locations in a six state area.



**QUALITY
QUANTITY
VALUE
Since 1959**

*Tell 'em
Joe
sent me*

18162 Harwood Avenue, Homewood, IL
(708) 798-8050
www.aureliospizza.com

Southland Smiles

Richard Mantoan, DDS
Fear No More - Gentle Dental Care



Creating Beautiful Smiles

19815 Governors Hwy, • Suite 7 • Flossmoor

(708) 799~7800

www.southlandsmiles.com

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

Welcome Fire Chief Kalina

Chief Kalina was born in Berwyn, Illinois and has lived in Lombard for the past 35 years. He and Kathy married in 1976 and have two children, Nicholas age 27 and Jonothan age 24. Both boys are currently in the fire service with Nick serving with the City of Plano, Texas and Jon serving with the Gary, Indiana Fire Department.

Chief Kalina holds a Bachelors Degree in Fire Science Administration from Southern Illinois University. He also is a state certified paramedic, and holds numerous Illinois State Fire

Marshal Certifications to the level of Fire Officer II.

The Chief's fire service career includes working as a Chicago FD Paramedic from 1974-1976. During this same period he also served as a paid-on-call Firefighter/Paramedic for the Lombard Fire Department, becoming a career Firefighter/Paramedic for Lombard in 1976. He advanced through the ranks to attain his final position with Lombard as a Battalion Chief.



His career with the Lombard FD ended after 34 years, when he retired to accept the position of Fire Chief for the Village of Homewood.

Chief Kalina spends his spare time enjoying his grandchildren, Austin, age 3 and Briana, age 2 months. He also enjoys various water sports including waterskiing and swimming at his lake home in southeast Wisconsin. In the winter he enjoys snow skiing at various

Wisconsin locations, and tries to get to Colorado to challenge the mountain terrain.

"As the Fire Chief in Homewood I will continue to challenge the members of this department to deliver emergency medical service in a caring and compassionate atmosphere. When our response is for a fire or rescue call, I can assure this community we will be prompt, well trained and able to meet the ever changing challenges of the fire service. We are, and will remain the safety net of this community!"

Spring Cleaning Safety Tips Quick Safety Check!

- Clean your basement and garage of trash that can fuel a fire.
- Clean and test your smoke alarms; an easy way to remember this task is to change the batteries when you change your clocks twice a year. Another way to make your twice a year switch is to use two special family holidays about six months apart and schedule your changes then.
- 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 barbeque 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.

Fourth of July Parade and Picnic

The Fire Department handles the organization and line-up for the annual Independence Day parade, which marches from the Fire Station to the Izaak Walton Preserve. Children march in the parade with decorated bicycles, wagons, strollers, and rollerblades or just on foot! Applications to participate in the parade can be printed from the Village website; return to Debbie Jones at the Fire Station located at 17950 Dixie Highway.



we encourage you to decorate your home or yard in full patriotic regalia! Last year, six parade route homes received thank you certificates for their decorating efforts.

Thousands of residents, friends, family and visitors enjoy the parade and community picnic held afterwards at Izaak Walton Preserve. Residents can bring their own picnic, or buy food from the Ikes; the H-F Park District organizes the fest at the Preserve for all the kids who attend.

If you live on the parade route,

Hazardous Waste Collection

Hazardous products such as automotive products, paint, batteries, etc., may contain toxic materials and should not end up in the trash or sewers. Please bring these items to a spring or fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection. The Illinois EPA's schedule is available at www.epa.gov.

state.il.us, or by calling (217) 785-8604.

Visit www.earth911.org to help determine the location an item can be recycled by entering the product name and your location. If there are available sources, a list is provided complete with name, address and phone number.

Welcome Officer Easter

Darren Easter joined the Homewood Police Department on November 17, 2008, as a full-time Police Officer. Officer Easter is a graduate of Thornwood High School. He has served in the United States Army, the

National Guard and the United States Army Reserves.

Officer Easter has been a part time police officer for the Village of Crestwood for the past 5 years. He currently resides in Chicago with his wife and two children.



HPA Scholarships Now Available

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 scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who embodies Officer Buckley's commitment to public service.

Applications for the 2009 scholarship are now available. Applicants must be Homewood residents and members of the 2008-09 high school graduating class. Applications are available 24 hours a day at the Homewood Police Department, 17950 Dixie Highway. The application deadline is April 30, 2009. Questions should be directed to Denise McGrath at 206-3420 ext. 5406 or dmcgrath@village.homewood.il.us.

Red Light Cameras Planned for Homewood

Red light cameras at four heavily traveled intersections within the Village will be installed and activated this spring:

- 175th Street and Halsted Street
- Ridge Road and Halsted Street
- 183rd Street and Halsted Street
- 183rd Street and Governor's Highway

According to the national campaign to Stop Red Light Running, photo enforcement is no longer an emerging technology but

a proven, well-established traffic safety tool that reduces crashes and saves lives. It is safer than the traditional law enforcement technique of observation, chase and citation. Officers do not have to run through the red light at high speeds to pursue violators, putting officers and other motorists at risk. Red light cameras also afford officers more time to focus on other important work where their presence is required. Red light cameras provide effective

continuous enforcement. Recent studies on red light camera enforcement conclude that cameras reduce personal injury crashes by 30%.

Signs indicating that cameras are present will be posted in the intersections to deter drivers from running red lights. Motorists who run a red light at these intersections over the first 21 days, after activation, will receive warning notices instead of monetary fines.

The entire process from

installation to operation to maintenance will be funded by the fines that violators pay to the Village. The system captures violations, matches license plates to the Department of Motor Vehicle records, issues citations, and collects fines. In the future, the system, created by Gatso USA, will be used to search for vehicles involved in Amber Alerts.



Pull to the Right for Sirens and Lights

Residents are reminded that when an emergency vehicle—a squad car, police motorcycle, fire truck, and ambulance—is on the way to an emergency, lights are flashing and sirens activated. All vehicles in its path are required

to move to the right to give the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle. Please stay alert... loud radios often overpower the sound of the sirens, and talking on cell phones can distract drivers from the presence of approaching emergency

vehicles. Remember, emergency personnel are often responding to situations where time is essential, and minutes—or even seconds—may mean the difference between life and death.

Safety Tips by Officer Curt Wiest

Spring is right around the corner. It's a fun time for kids to dust off the bicycles and start riding again as the weather is getting warmer and the days are getting longer. Bicycle helmets are an essential element of bicycle safety. Always strap on an approved safety helmet before you ride to protect your head and brain from injury in case of an accident. The following are some safety tips to keep all the youngsters safe while riding their bikes:

- It is safest to ride single file. Riding two abreast is permitted as long as the normal and reasonable movement of traffic is not impeded. Riding more than two abreast is prohibited except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. (Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/11-1510).

- Avoid riding at night if possible, but if you have to, wear white or reflective clothing.
- Make sure your bike is equipped for safety and working properly.
- Ride as close to the right edge of the road as practical—always ride in the same direction as the other traffic.
- Always keep both hands on the handlebars—use a backpack or a bike carrier to hold items.
- Right turns must be made from the right lane. Stay as close as practical to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
- When making a left turn, the bicyclist should occupy the right-hand side of that lane and then, after entering the intersection, look in all directions and make the turn when safe.

To ride safely in traffic, bicycle



riders use their hands and arms to “talk” to the vehicles around them. There are three important arm signals you should learn and use every time you prepare to turn or stop. Remember to signal, using your left arm, about one-third of a block before you plan to turn so that vehicles behind you will have time to slow down. Hand signals should be given from the left side as follows:

Left turn – hand and arm are extended horizontally.

Right turn – hand and arm are extended upward (L shaped), except bicyclists may extend the right hand

and arm horizontally and to the right side of the bicycle.

Stop or decrease speed – hand and arm extended downward.

Signal not less than the last 100 feet before the turn, and while the bicycle is stopped waiting to turn.

Bicyclists need to follow the same markings on the pavement and laws as vehicles. Bicyclists are allowed to ride on the sidewalks except in the downtown business area. When riding on a sidewalk or a crosswalk, you must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing them.

The most important thing to remember is to operate the bicycle as if you were a vehicle, being ever so mindful of the signs on the ground, poles or on buildings and constantly looking at your surrounding.

COMMUNITY NEWS: UP COMING EVENTS

Rail Days 2009 *Sponsored by the Rail Committee*

All aboard! Homewood's Sixth Annual Railroad Heritage Days will be held Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. The events are open to young and old alike and to all those who enjoy trains.

On Saturday, the Rail Committee will host its annual rail slide show, a multimedia presentation of railroad photographs taken by nationally known rail photographers. The show offers a fast paced glimpse into the operations and history of selected area railroads. This year, the slide show will be held in the St. Joseph School Hall, located behind the church at 17951 Dixie Highway. The three hour show starts at 7 PM. Refreshments will be available.

On Sunday, a full day of events is planned, starting at 9 AM at Village Hall and the H-F Park District Auditorium, both located on Chestnut Road. Vendors will offer a wide variety of railroad related memorabilia and a number of operating train layouts, including a LEGO layout popular with the kids. Canadian National's Lil' Obie, a miniature train and caboose, will be on hand to offer rides and other displays will include Operation Lifesaver and a train engine simulator. Admission is free and food and refreshments will be available.

Visit railroad attractions in

downtown Homewood throughout the day:

Rail Platform

The Rail Viewing Platform is located on the east side of the rail tracks on Harwood Avenue, just south of Ridge Road. The platform offers an elevated and comfortable spot to see Canadian National, Amtrak and Metra trains as they pass through Homewood. The platform is wheelchair accessible and features a scanner broadcasting radio communications between trains and the nearby rail yard.

Train Murals

From the platform, walk through the pedestrian tunnel between Harwood Avenue and Park Avenue to view one-of-a-kind murals decorating the tunnel. The murals were produced from artwork completed by students from Homewood-Flossmoor High School. Each mural depicts a scene from Homewood and Illinois Central railroad history.

Rail Park

On the west side of the tracks, on Park Avenue north of the train station, visitors can enjoy the Rail Park featuring two vintage pieces of Illinois Central rail equipment from the historic "Main Line of Mid-America." The park is a perfect spot to relax and offers another vantage point to view train traffic as it passes through Homewood.

For full details on Rail Fest and railroad attractions, visit the Village website.



Images courtesy of Paul Burgess and Frank Casella, members of the Rail Committee.

WHFH and DECA host H-F Spring Concert

Pete Francis featuring Barefoot Truth

WHFH and the H-F DECA Club will host the H-F Spring Concert on Thursday, April 9. The concert will showcase the live performance of Pete Francis featuring Barefoot Truth.

Pete Francis was formerly with the band, Dispatch, who sold out Madison Square Garden three nights in

a row during their final shows. Barefoot Truth is a group from the east coast gaining notoriety. Together, they performed in New York City for an Obama election rally during his campaign. Their style of music has been characterized as acoustic rock and captures listeners of all ages. If you like Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer, and Jack Johnson, you'll love the sounds of Pete Francis featuring Barefoot Truth.

• Tickets are on sale now at the

H-F Campus Bookstore located in the south cafeteria.

• \$10 for H-F students; \$15 for community residents

- Concert starts 7:30 PM
- Doors Open at 6:30 PM
- Tickets are \$15 at the door
- Special seating for private donors and contest winners only

For concert details, visit hfhighschool.org, or call 798-WHFH (9434). Email inquiries to hfspringconcert@gmail.com.



Pete Francis



Barefoot Truth

Saturday, June 20 is a very special day in downtown Homewood. Welcome this year's line-up of summertime festivals, concerts, and activities with a one-of-kind Saturday that features a garden, antique, jewelry, and art fair; antique and vintage car show; fine wine tasting and merchant open houses, and opening day at the downtown Homewood Farmers' Market.



Fine Art Fair Relocates to Flossmoor

The Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce has moved the Fine Art Fair to Flossmoor this year. The

Fair will be held on June 6 and June 7 in downtown Flossmoor. For more information about

exhibitors or booth space, please contact the Homewood Area Chamber at 206-3384.

Drivin' the Dixie

To emphasize the original objective to promote the heritage of Dixie Highway and its communities, the Heritage Committee will introduce a new format for Drivin' the Dixie this year, including reverting back to

the original concept. On Saturday, June 20, participating towns will encourage drivers to take a more leisurely drive along the historic route to take advantage of the events and activities and points of interest in the towns from Blue

Island to Momence rather than a single parade of cars. Homewood would welcome participants in the earlier part of the day for live music, food, and fun at the Homewood Farmers' Market, shops, historic marker, historic

plaques, sites, Dorband-Howe House Museum, architectural features, Haas murals, and railroad sites. For full details visit the Village website or call chairman, Elaine Egdorf at 798-9535. Registration required.

Downtown Homewood Art and Garden Street Fair

The Downtown Homewood Business Association will host a garden and art fair on Saturday, June 20 from 10 AM to 6 PM on Martin Avenue in downtown Homewood between Ridge Road and Hickory Road. The Fair will

feature gorgeous garden décor and one-of-a-kind works from artisans specializing in fine art, jewelry, pottery, furniture, photography and more. Kid activities include beading and mosaics. Downtown merchants will host open houses

and fine wine tastings.

The President's Art Contest will be held during this event. Entries will be accepted through June 6. 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. The subject matter is limitless; however, all entries must depict something about Homewood.

Downtown Homewood Farmers' Market to feature Green Saturdays

The Downtown Homewood Farmers' Market season will open June 20 and close October 17. The market is held every Saturday from 8 AM to 1 PM in the St. Paul Community Church parking lot located at 18200 Dixie Highway. Shoppers will find a vast array of specialty products and organic produce, including fresh cut flowers and perennials, coffee and tea, culinary herbs, and specialty meats and cheeses.

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

Green Saturdays Schedule

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

July 25: Free document shredding and recycling.

August 22: Free electronic waste recycling.

September 26: TBD

October 17: Free CFL light bulb distribution to all market shoppers (while quantities last).

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.



Finance & Manager's Office News



Friendly Reminders from the Finance Department:

April 1Pre-printed vehicle sticker applications mailed to residents; pet licenses go on sale	April 9Voter's registration re-opens at Village Hall
April 2Last day for early voting at designated locations chosen by Cook County	April 30 ..Parking stickers expire
April 7Consolidated Election	May 12009 vehicle stickers must be displayed
	May 31 ...Pet tags expire
	June 1\$25 late fee assessed on vehicle stickers

Consolidated Election

The Consolidated Election will be held on Tuesday, April 7. Early voting will continue until Thursday, April 2 at designated locations chosen by the Cook County Clerk's Office, with in-person voting continuing until Monday, April 6 at designated locations. For more information visit the County Clerk's office website at voterinfonet.com. The following list provides the name, office, and term for each candidate:

Candidate	Office	Term
Richard A. Hofeld	President	4 yr. term
Glenn S. Tienstra	President	4 yr. term
Gayle Campbell	Village Clerk	4 yr. term
Raymond Robertson	Trustee	4 yr. term
Allisa Opyd	Trustee	4 yr. term
Barbara Dawkins	Trustee	4 yr. term
Anne Colton	Trustee	4 yr. term
Sandor Brattstrom	Trustee	4 yr. term
Joseph F. Casella	Trustee	2 yr. term
Jason J. Nardi	Trustee	2 yr. term

New Website

Visit the newly designed Village website:
homesweethomewood.com

- Colorful design
- Simple, clean look
- Easy navigation
- Monthly calendar listing special events and public meetings
- News Room
- Online documents and forms
- Interactive links

- Community Directory
- Quick Links section for residents and businesses

When you visit the new site, please take our survey to provide feedback on how we can continue to improve online communication.

Seniors Get Two Discount 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 sticker by mail at the senior rate of \$5. 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 may be obtained at the Village Hall beginning April 1. All dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed with 2009-2010 tags by May 31. Owners must provide a veterinarian's certificate of a current rabies inoculation. Licensing fees are \$10 for the first pet and \$5 for each additional animal. The Homewood Municipal Code limits the maximum number of animals to four per household.

e-Newswire

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!

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.

Vehicle Stickers - New and Improved Application!

This year you'll notice a new format for the vehicle sticker applications. We have eliminated the postcards and now most households will receive one form for their vehicle sticker renewal. Our goal is to improve the appearance of the vehicle sticker application, making it easier for residents to identify the application.

Vehicle stickers may be purchased by mail or in person at the Village Hall. A drop box,

located on Chestnut Road, outside of the front door of the Village Hall, is also available for your convenience. Residents who obtained stickers last year will receive a pre-printed application in the mail on April 1.

As in previous years, please check the information on the application, making sure it is correct and return it with the appropriate payment. There is a non-shaded area for you to make any corrections

or additions. Blank applications can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Vehicle stickers should be on all vehicles beginning May 1. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed for stickers purchased after June 1. Exceptions are new residents of 30 days or less, or vehicles purchased within the last 60 days. Proof of purchase date is required. All vehicles that are registered in Homewood must have a current vehicle sticker.

Bicycle Licenses

Bicycles must be licensed in the Village. The cost is \$2 each and the license is valid for as long as the license holder owns the bike. The serial number on the bicycle is required.



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.
- Permits can be obtained at the Village Hall at a cost \$2 per day. Permits must be posted.
- 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 sign 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 on the sign.

- 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.



Rejuvenated Mediation Program Builds Stronger, More Harmonic Village of Homewood

By John Williams Jr., Contributing Writer and Homewood Resident

Neighborly neighbors are the heart and soul of vibrant communities. From lending a helping hand to offering an empathetic ear, good neighbors are worth their weight in gold. However, disagreements and misunderstandings over matters, both large and small, can sour the relationships of new and long-time neighbors, transforming the warm people next door into cold and distant adversaries. Through its free "Mediation Program," the Village of Homewood can help residents mend fences and build stronger relationships.

Community Information Coordinator Rachael Jones says the program offers neighbors, merchants, consumers, tenants and landlords a fair and balanced approach to resolve disputes. While the Village has offered mediation services for over 10 years, the program has largely been sidetracked by a lack of trained mediators and little public awareness. About a year ago, the mediation program was retooled and rejuvenated through the efforts of Jones, Chris Beele, a member of the Village Community Relations Commission, and Homewood resident Mark Russakoff.

A certified mediator through the American Center for Conflict Resolution Institute, Russakoff constructed a comprehensive

program—replete with protocols from A to Z—specific to Homewood and its needs. The mediation process entails four major phases: Intake process/opening, communication, negotiation, and closing. At any point, unsatisfied parties can terminate the proceedings. Nationally, binding resolutions are reached in 75%-85% of mediation cases, according to online statistics.

Intrinsically, mediation is non-adversarial and helps participants preserve and strengthen existing relationships. "In mediation, the parties in conflict work out a mutually satisfactory solution themselves, rather than having a judgment handed down," Russakoff says. "I believe firmly that in any community, one of the best ways to resolve disagreement and preserve peaceful, healthy relationships is for people to communicate with each other."

The mediation program is designed to help Homewood residents and businesses confront and resolve a wide array of disputes, such as excessive noise, parking grievances, yard/tree maintenance, damaged property, racial or ethnic discord, consumer complaints, and landlord—tenant disagreements. Disputes involving alleged violations of local laws, codes, and ordinances are exempt from the Village program.

Stating that unresolved issues can take a serious toll on the emotional psyche of "Homewoodians," Jones notes mediation gives feuding parties an opportunity to extend an olive branch. "The willingness to do this is so important in a world rife with conflict . . . Mediation is a way to protect our values and close-knit way of life."

The Homewood Community Relations Commission, which oversees the highly confidential program, currently enlists three certified mediators from diverse backgrounds and professions on a volunteer basis. "People who live in Homewood have a vested interest in helping to preserve a healthy, communicative and positive atmosphere among residents," Russakoff explains. "It surely is a source of satisfaction to know that your efforts can help restore and strengthen a damaged relationship, or resolve a misunderstanding."

Likening it to the "act of bringing cooked meals to sick neighbors," Russakoff says the mediation process promotes "a stronger, more unified sense of community." Further still, it demonstrates a community's commitment to caring for the



well-being of its residents. Highly motivated persons are encouraged to get involved and serve as Homewood mediators.

Russakoff, who possesses over two decades of university teaching and curriculum design experience, states a number of important traits are paramount for successful mediators, including: 1) The willingness to listen without imposing a solution or otherwise dictating to parties; 2) Respect, neutrality, and the ability to ask questions to clarify difficult or incompletely expressed situations; and 3) A willingness to work with others in a capacity of guidance rather than solving problems for others. To become a certified mediator in Homewood, residents must complete a lively and rigorous nine-hour training program.

Individuals interested in learning more about the mediation program can contact the Village at 798-3000 or log onto homesweethomewood.com.

BUSINESS NEWS

12th Annual Spring Business Breakfast

On Tuesday, April 21, the Economic Development Committee will host its annual Spring Business Breakfast. The event will take place at Calumet Country Club at 7:30 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. All businesses in Homewood are invited to attend. Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to contact the Community Development Office at 206-3385.

Downtown Business Association

The Downtown Homewood Business Association encourages residents to support local businesses with a simple message: Keep it in Homewood. Many of these businesses sponsor baseball teams, community events, school programs, and support several not-for-profit organizations in the

area. Throughout the spring and summer months, stroll downtown Homewood for unique items, exceptional services, and great food and drink.

Visit their new website, www.DHBA.biz for a list of businesses and their product and service offerings.

...Upcoming Girls Night Out Event
May 15, 5 PM to 9 PM, Garden Extravaganza

Homewood Area Chamber Activities

Annual Golf Outing sponsored by the Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce, H-F Lions Club, and Homewood Rotary (open to all businesses).

Annual Art Fair (June 6 and 7) in downtown Flossmoor

Homewood Days (July 10, 11, and 12)

If you are a business interested in learning more about the Chamber of Commerce or any of these events, please contact Kathy Nussbaum, Director of the Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce at 206-3384 or kathy@homewoodareachamber.com.



HOMWOOD DISPOSAL

Call us for your next home remodeling project!

We offer dumpsters in 5 sizes to fit your needs.

(708) 798-1004
www.mydisposal.com

Sign up for the e-Newsire Community to stay informed about Homewood!

Receive the electronic newsletter that breaks bi-weekly.

homesweethomewood.com

FIRST MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Making American dreams come true since 1984.

Moz Sayeed
Your Mortgage Consultant for Life
Your FHA & Conventional Mortgage Specialist
(708) 647-5255
mozsayed.com

Call for credit analysis and prequalification

Illinois Residential Mortgage License MB.302 Equal Housing Lender 19831 Governors Highway, Flossmoor, IL 60422

JOHN'S AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR

Complete Auto Service • 30 Years Experience

- Foreign & Domestic Cars
- ASE Certified Technicians
- Tune-Ups
- Brake Repair
- Lube, Oil, Filter
- Transmission Service

- IM240 Certified Emission Repairs
- Computerized Diagnostics
- Engine Repair
- Suspension Repairs
- Batteries
- Air Conditioning Service

John Nystrom (Owner) **18009 Harwood • Homewood**
Monday - Friday 7:30 am-5 pm Across from the I.C. Station (on Harwood)

708-798-7071

Certified Cleaning & Sealing Specialist

● CLEANING ● SEALING ● STAINING

We Also... Powerwash Patios & Homes • Seal Blacktop

FREE ESTIMATES

708-206-2037

Balagio Relocates *by Allisa Opyd of the Economic Development Committee*

During this time of economic uncertainty, most people try to follow the status quo. However, Michael Galderio, owner of Balagio, believes this is a time of great opportunity and new beginnings. On January 1, he closed his downtown Homewood restaurant and reopened Balagio in its new location at 17501 Dixie Highway in Homewood.

Michael, a seasoned restaurateur, once owned The Tender Trap Sports Bar in Chicago Heights. The bar opened at 1,200 square feet and was expanded to 7,000 square feet to meet the demands of his customers. Although happy with the success of The Tender Trap, he was eager to

open a full-service Italian restaurant in the south suburbs. He researched many locations and found one in the quaint and thriving downtown of Homewood. He was impressed with how Village President Rich Hofeld promoted development and with the cleanliness of the downtown. Balagio opened in November 1997.

With many years of success at his downtown location, Michael knew it was time to take his restaurant to the next level. His priority was to find a building to own where he could offer banquet facilities with accessible parking. Once again he began searching for a new location, the goal was to stay in Homewood while increasing

the restaurant square footage and fulfilling his other requirements. The former Leona's restaurant, on 175th Street and Dixie Highway, seemed to be a good fit.

The new Balagio's location has additional seating in the bar and dining areas while providing the elegance and intimacy that patrons were accustomed to at the original downtown location. Banquet rooms are available for large events, showers, and receptions, one that can hold up to 80 guests, and another that has space for up to 300. Patrons will notice changes to the menu. Because of the slow economy, Michael has lowered 80 percent of the family-friendly menu items to \$12.95 or below while

still offering patrons the same fresh ingredients and quality home-cooked meals not found in national chain restaurants. Balagio will continue to offer carry-out service as well as a full catering menu. Watch for a new website detailing dining and catering menus, along with a listing of weekly entertainment.

The new Balagio's location offers a family-friendly atmosphere, elegant accommodations, and delicious, yet affordable menu items. If you have not visited Balagio in their new location at 17501 Dixie Highway in Homewood, do so soon. If you do not have the time for a relaxing, elegant night out, take advantage of their carry-out service at 957-1650.



"The Ingalls staff was thoughtful, helpful, calming and reassuring. We were seen immediately and I felt we were in good hands."

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

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

Ingalls Urgent Aid is open 24 hours, 7 days a week and typically treats:

- > Asthma and allergies
- > Broken bones
- > Earaches and eye injuries
- > Fever/Flu
- > Gastrointestinal distress
- > Cuts, burns and bruises

Ingalls Urgent Aid Centers are an extension of the hospital's Emergency Department. NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED!



TINLEY PARK
6701 West 159th St.
(just east of Oak Park Avenue)
708.429.3300

FLOSSMOOR
19550 Governors Hwy.
(between Kedzie and Vollmer)
708.799.8400

CALUMET CITY
1600 Torrence Ave.
(170th and Torrence)
708.730.1300



HOMWOOD HEARING CENTER

CHARLES A. AMENTA III, M.D.
SHERI LARKS, MA CCC-A, FAAA

- Located in Downtown Homewood across from Aurelio's Pizza
- Physician on Premises
- Latest Technology Available
- Hearing Aid Supplies and Repairs
- Complete Hearing Testing

18161 Morris Ave., #105 • Homewood, IL 60430
(708) 799-5520



Contact Sherry for all of your real estate needs!

Sherry Liang, ABR®, SRES®
Senior Real Estate Specialist

direct: 708.283.5229
sherry.liang@bairdwarner.com

bairdwarner.com/sherry.liang



bairdwarner.com
Your favorite way home since 1855.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Building Permits

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, 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, apply early for your

building permit (plan review takes approximately two weeks). 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 206-3858. The Building Division is located on the second floor of Village Hall.

Single Family Rehab Program

Chicago Southland Development Inc. (CSDI) is accepting applications for Community Development Block Grant funds in conjunction with the Single Family Rehabilitation Program. CSDI is the management team that has administered

the program for the Village of Homewood and other southern suburbs for the past 10 years. Homewood residents whose homes are in need of assistance are asked to contact CSDI representatives at 922-4600.

TreeShare Program

The Village is offering its spring tree purchase program whereby residents can purchase trees at a significantly reduced cost. The Village shares in the cost of the trees in order to encourage reforestation in the Village. Up to two trees may be purchased per residence. The Village's certified arborist ensures that the tree species that are selected are compatible with a street-side environment. The Arborist selects

trees for this program that are native to this area and that provide optimal disease resistance and landscape value. To promote diversification of the Village's tree population, varied species are offered in the spring and fall. Go to the Village website to view spring tree species at homesweethomewood.com, under the Parkway Management link or contact the Village Arborist at 206-3396.

Meet Your Merchants

Businesses are invited to contact the Community Development office to schedule an appearance for the "Meet Your Merchants" segment of a Village Board meeting. The segment provides local merchants an opportunity to promote their business. Merchants are given several minutes to highlight the business. The Village Board meetings are recorded and shown numerous times on HCTV over a period of several weeks. The following businesses appeared on Meet Your Merchants in 2008:

- Girlfriends, 18046 Martin Avenue
- Jimmy Johns, 18048 Halsted Street
- Culvers, 850 183rd Street

- Arbor Eye Care, 2640 183rd Street
- Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce, 2023 Ridge Road Suite 2NE-B
- The Zone Comics, 18063 Dixie Highway
- Eighner Florist, 17828 Dixie Highway
- Caribou Coffee, 2010 183rd Street
- Creative Seeds, 1948 Ridge Road
- Sertoma Speech and Hearing, 18141 Dixie Highway
- Salon J, 18129 Dixie Highway

To schedule an appearance, contact the Community Development staff at 206-3387.



Branch Chipping

To assist residents in disposing of tree branches and brush, the Village offers a free chipping program on the first Saturday of each month from March through November from 8 AM to 12 PM. This service is offered to residents only—proof of residency will be required. Business and landscape contractor drop offs will not be accepted.

Maximum branch and log diameter cannot exceed eight (8) inches. Tree stumps and construction material will also not be accepted. Homeowners may

choose to take their wood chips with them by bringing containers to transport the mulch. They may also leave the mulch at the Municipal Service Center to be used by the Village. Only tree branches are accepted. Evergreens, bushes, and shrubs cannot be chipped.

Residents may bring their branches to the Municipal Service Center located at 17755 Ashland Avenue.

**Please Note: In July and September, chipping will be held on the second Saturday due to holidays.*



Joanne Bartelsen
Your Neighborhood Realtor
Licensed in Illinois & Indiana

RE/MAX
South Suburban
708-922-1143

Let me help you if buying or selling. For professionalism, dedication and commitment, you need but one realtor.




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 and receive **HALF OFF REGISTRATION FEE**

Faith Wonderland Preschool
18645 Dixie Highway
Homewood, IL 60430
708/799-5438
www.wonderlandpreschool.org




FREE ESTIMATES • LICENSED & INSURED

SWARTZ REMODELING, INC.
Kitchens & Bathrooms
(708) 790-4552
www.swartzremodelinghome.com

Doug Swartz
Business Owner & Homewood Resident

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 than 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.

Street Resurfacing Program

The following streets will be resurfaced this year:

Perth Avenue from 183rd Street to end

Cedar Road from Dixie Highway to Golfview Avenue

Gladville Avenue from Ridge Road to Burr Oak Avenue

Olive Road from Center Avenue to Riegel Road

Hillside Avenue from Spruce Road to Hawthorne Avenue

Howe Avenue from 175th Street to Spruce Road

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, member of the Tree Committee

BUSINESSES

Your advertisements in the Village Key not only support Homewood's newsletter, but reach directly into over 9,000 homes and businesses to help sell your merchandise, products and services.

It's good business to place an ad in the Homewood Village Key.

For more information contact Pam Stasil at 708.891.0744

YOUR H/F AWARD WINNING REALTOR!



John M. Beele RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

"LIST or SELL I Do It Well!"



1056 Sterling Avenue • Flossmoor
957-0600 • VM 922-4107

The Village Door

consignment shop of "Fine Things"



2019 Ridge Road
Homewood, IL 60430
(708) 798-8665

Tues., Wed., Fri.:
10 am - 5 pm
Thursday:
10 am - 7 pm
Saturday:
10 am - 4 pm

DONATIONS /
CONSIGNMENT
Monday 9 am - 12 pm
and Estate Sales

Jennifer S. Fallick
Cancer Support Center
"People Helping People"

WOOD Recyclers



- *TREES *STUMPS *BRUSH *WOODCHIPS
- *FENCE *DECKS *LUMBER
- *LANDSCAPE TIMBERS *PALLET'S *& MORE

*(All products must be 100% wood and contaminant free, no railroad ties.)

708-889-WOOD (9663)

20, 30, 40 YARD DUMPSTERS

AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE TO LANDFILL

GIVE YOURSELF A Spring Break

- VACATION CARE
- DAILY DOG WALKING
- PET WASTE REMOVAL
- SPRING CLEANUP & WEEKLY SERVICE AVAILABLE

Homewood Flossmoor Pet Sitters
HF Pooper Scoopers

708.798.7750

www.homewoodflossmoorpetsitters.com



Does your tax preparer: Take too long? Charge too much? Leave you in the dark?



Have our skilled tax professionals prepare your tax return quickly and affordably. We are welcoming new tax clients, so contact us to make an appointment or request your free 2008 Tax Organizer.



Taxes@afcadvisory.com
708/957-2121
ext 315

18708 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FLOSSMOOR, IL 60422
A DIVISION OF ANTHONISEN FINANCIAL CORP



HOME BOUND HEALTHCARE

1615 VOLLMER ROAD, FLOSSMOOR IL 60422

TOLL FREE (800) 444-7028 DIRECT LINE (708) 798-0800 FAX (708) 798-0870
OFFICES IN MOLINE • PEORIA • PERU • SPRINGFIELD • SYCAMORE • MELROSE PARK

NURSING & THERAPY SERVICES

- HOME NURSING CARE - RN / LPN
- HOME REHABILITATION CARE
- HOME SUPPORTIVE CARE

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

- HOSPITAL BEDS & ACCESSORIES
- RESPIRATORY & WOUND CARE PRODUCTS
- DIABETIC & UROLOGICAL SUPPLIES
- MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIR, CANES, SCOOTERS

PRIVATE DUTY & HOME MAKER SERVICES

- HOME SERVICES
- COMPANION CARE

OUTPATIENT THERAPY

- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
- SPEECH THERAPY



CARING FOR YOUR HEALTH NEEDS IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME
24 HOURS A DAY • 7 DAYS A WEEK

www.HomeBoundHealth.com

MEDICARE • MEDICAID • PRIVATE INSURANCE • PRIVATE PAY



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 799-1896. In this and future editions of the Key, excerpts from the book will be printed chronicling Homewood's history. In this issue read about the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad's switching yards in Homewood.

The construction of the Markham Yards changed the landscape of northeast Homewood permanently. The yards named after Charles Markham, the railroad's president at the time, were the Illinois Central's massive freight classification yards built between 157th Street in Harvey on the north and Pine Road in Homewood on the south. The yards initially proposed in the fall of 1917 were meant to consolidate the transfer and switching of the I.C.'s freight car traffic in and out of Chicago. Included as part of this project was an extensive complex of mechanical and repair facilities to help maintain the railroad's fleet of steam locomotives and freight cars. A roundhouse, coaling tower, machine and boiler shops were

among the buildings built on the west side of Ashland Avenue north of Maple Road.

Prior to the start of construction, the railroad had to negotiate the purchase of up to 650 acres of land in the city of Harvey and the villages of Homewood, East Hazel Crest and Hazel Crest. In Homewood some homes and outbuildings were either torn down or had to be moved. Sections of the Dixie Highway, Maple, Cedar and Pine Roads were also vacated to allow construction to proceed.

Initial work on the project started in 1918 and consisted of the movement of a part of the 5 million cubic yards of sand used as fill needed to level swampy

areas and elevate track. One and a half million cubic yards of this sand came from the Mackenzie farm, the area north of Ridge Road now a part of the land and lakes of the Izaak Walton Preserve. These sand deposits also provided ample evidence of the area's geologic past as part of the ancient shoreline of Lake Michigan. Construction of the yards slowed significantly after President Wilson signed the Railway Control Act in March 1918. The Act federalized the nation's railroads during the war for troop and material shipments.

Work did not resume on the yard project until 1922. The Dixie Highway subway (viaduct) was completed that year and the remainder of the construction was finished in 1926 and the Markham Yards were officially opened on

the Maple Road intersection. Fatal accidents there had become quite numerous earning the intersection the apt name of "death's angle". In 1919 alone, eight people were killed at the crossing despite the fact a flagman was usually stationed



“The construction of the Markham Yards changed the landscape of northeast Homewood permanently.”

April 1st.

Elimination of all grade crossings between downtown Chicago and Richton was a goal of the railroad as part of the I.C.'s electrification of its suburban or commuter services, the second major project it undertook during the 1920's. The growing population along the rail line and the increasing use of the automobile led to more fatal accidents at these crossings. Prior to the construction of the viaduct, the Dixie Highway crossed the rail tracks at grade on an angle near

there to stop traffic when trains approached. Five of those killed that year died in a New Year's Eve accident when their car was struck by a southbound freight and was then hit a second time by a northbound passenger train. Fortunately, the construction of the Maria (183rd) Street and the Flossmoor Road viaducts were completed in 1913 and the pedestrian subway at Main Street (Ridge Road) in Homewood was built in 1911, which no doubt eliminated further fatal accidents at these locations.



BANQUETS & CATERING

for Your Family & Company Celebrations



RIB & CHOP HOUSE

**106 N. Main
Glenwood, IL**

5 miles west of Illinois/Indiana border
on Glenwood Lansing Rd.

(708) 758-4400

www.glenwoodoaks.com

- WEDDINGS
- SHOWERS
- COMMUNIONS
- GRADUATIONS
- REHEARSAL DINNERS
- ANNIVERSARIES
- BIRTHDAYS
- BUSINESS LUNCHEONS
- TRAINING SEMINARS
- AND MORE

**Private Dining Rooms
to Accommodate
20 to 250 Guests**

**Catering Packages Available
to Your Home or Office**

**CALL FOR MENUS
& PRICING**



Village of Homewood

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

ECRWSS

**POSTAL CUSTOMER
HOMWOOD, IL 60430**

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 33
Homewood, IL
60430

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

Village Key Editorial Staff - 2020 Chestnut Road - Homewood, Illinois 60430

To place an advertisement in the Village Key, please contact: Pam Stasil at 708.891.0744 | Lee Publications, Inc.