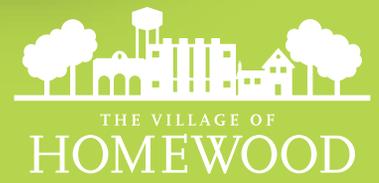


# HOMWOOD VILLAGE KEY

HOMESWEETHOMWOOD.COM | SPRING 2013



You're in  
the Right Place  
*for Spring!*



THE VILLAGE OF  
HOMWOOD

1893

*We are a community dedicated to enhancing the lives of our residents and committed to the growth of our town.*

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## MARCH

**St. Joseph Fish Fry**  
Every Friday  
March 1, 8, 15, and 22  
St. Joseph Parish Gym  
17949 Dixie Highway  
*Sponsored by St. Joseph Parish*

## APRIL

**April 1**  
Vehicle Stickers and Pet tags go on sale

**April 9**  
Consolidated General Election

**Spring for Homewood Schools**  
Eighth Annual Fundraising Event  
Saturday, April 13 | 6:30 PM to 11:30 PM  
Ravisloe Country Club  
18231 South Park Avenue  
*Sponsored by Foundation 153*

**H-F Park District's Earth Day Celebration**  
Saturday, April 20 | 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Irons Oaks' Vollmer Road Lot  
*Sponsored by HF Park District*

**Homewood Baseball Parade and Opening Day**  
Saturday, April 20 | 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Ridge Road to Izaak Walton  
Little League Baseball Field  
*Sponsored by Homewood Baseball League*

**16th Annual Diversity Dinners**  
April 25  
*Sponsored by South Suburban Diversity Dinners (708) 679-5728*

**Health Fair**  
Sunday, April 28 | 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
James Hart Junior High School  
18220 Morgan Street  
(708) 799-5544  
*Sponsored by Rotary and Ingalls Health System*

**April 30**  
All Village vehicle stickers and parking stickers expire (late fees assessed June 1)

## MAY

**H-F Park District Annual Park Pride Day**  
Saturday, May 4 | 8:30 AM park work begins at area parks, 11:00 AM lunch at Irwin Park  
*Sponsored by H-F Park District*

**Downtown Homewood French Market**  
Saturday, May 18 through October 19 | 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Village Hall  
2020 Chestnut Road  
*Sponsored by the Village of Homewood*

**Homewood's Annual Rail Heritage Days**  
Sunday, May 19 | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
HF Auditorium  
2010 Chestnut Road  
*Sponsored by the Village of Homewood*

**Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony**  
Monday, May 27 | 10:30 AM  
Dixie Highway to Veterans Memorial Park (Harwood Avenue and Olive Road)

## SUMMER PREVIEW

**Art and Garden Street Fair (Two Day Festival)**  
Friday, June 7 | 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM  
Saturday, June 8 | 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM  
Martin Avenue (Ridge Road to Hickory)  
*Sponsored by the Village of Homewood & Downtown Homewood Business Association*

**Starry Night Concert Series Begins**  
Performance by Final Say  
Thursday, June 13 | 7:00 PM  
Irwin Park (Ridge Road)  
*Sponsored by HF Park District*

**Drivin' the Dixie**  
Saturday, June 15  
Historic Dixie Highway (starts in Blue Island)  
*Sponsored by Homewood Heritage Committee*

**Starry Night Concert**  
Performance by The Dancing Noodles  
Thursday, June 27 | 7:00PM  
Irwin Park (Ridge Road)  
*Sponsored by HF Park District*

**Starry Night Concert**  
Performance by Spoken Four  
Thursday, July 25 | 7:00PM  
Irwin Park (Ridge Road)  
*Sponsored by HF Park District*

Scan to view the Village Calendar



# 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**  
Karen Washington

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Trustee Anne Colton  
Trustee Barbara Dawkins  
Trustee Jay Heiferman  
Trustee Thomas W. Kataras  
Trustee Lisa Purcell  
Trustee Ray Robertson

# PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTORY

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

Village of Homewood (Main Number) **798-3000**

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

[homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com) • [hfisgreat.com](http://hfisgreat.com)

REMAX | 06 | 4700

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As most of you know, I am an unabashed dog lover. Over the years my wife Marilyn and I have rescued quite a few Labrador Retrievers. The Homewood village code states that there can be only four dogs or cats per household, so usually you can count on

live for twelve or thirteen years. And as most dog lovers know, each dog has its own traits, its own personality, and when they pass on you miss them as you would any family member.

We've adopted dogs from the South Suburban Humane Society, NAWS

population to two, Maggie, a Yellow Lab and Ruby, a svelte 120 pound Black Lab. Almost all our "girls" arrive with names already given to them by their previous owners or shelters. So as not to confuse them with a new name, we just keep their original name.

Richard A. Hofeld  
Village President

“When you adopt a rescue dog or cat, between now and July, I'll pay for your 2013-14 Village of Homewood dog license, myself.”

the patter of sixteen paws in our home.

We always have "girls" and they come to us anywhere from two to seven years old. The great thing is that they are a part of the family, but the downside is they never live long enough.

A large dog, such as our Labs, only

(National Animal Welfare Society) and from private parties through ads in papers and online at Petfinder.com.

Last year we lost Chelsea, a beautiful Yellow Lab who was a retired guide dog and Holly, a Black Lab who had been a Katrina rescue. That reduced our household canine

Last year we added a new lovable Black Lab named Lori from a shelter near Peoria. I had seen her picture on Petfinder.com, contacted the shelter, then loaded Ruby in the car, to "check her out." She is beautiful and really fits right in.

President's Message  
*continued on page 4*

WALTS 10683766

## President's Message

*continued from page 3*

Every morning, at sun-up, I take the dogs down to the Izaak Walton Preserve so they, and I, can get our exercise. Regardless of the weather they look forward to each morning's excursion. The downside however, is when it's wet outside I have to load wet dogs in the back of the car. Air fresheners don't really help. The wet dog smell lingers for quite a while as those who have ridden in my car can attest. But, as dog owners know—we love our dogs.

Offering a home to a shelter dog in need not only benefits the dog in need but it sure makes you feel good as well. It's a nice feeling to have a "new family member" who really appreciates being in a loving household, and they always give you unconditional love. (It has been said that when your kids become teenagers, be sure to get a

dog, so when you come home at least someone is glad to see you!)

Adopting a pet is the sensible way to go and I strongly encourage you, when you're looking for a dog or cat, do check out the local humane society or Petfinder.com. As you know, I'm a strong supporter of pet adoptions, so to assist you—when you adopt a rescue dog or cat, between now and July, I'll pay for your 2013-14 Village of Homewood pet license myself.

The 2013-14 pet licenses will be on sale beginning April 1st; just bring in your pet's adoption papers, along with their rabies certificates, and I'll pay for their license. We'll both feel good about this—you by getting a wonderful new family member, and I'll know that a shelter pet is going to a welcoming and loving home.

## BOARD, COMMISSION & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

**Appearance Commission**  
**Beautification Committee**  
**Cable TV Commission**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Community Relations Commission**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Fire and Police Commission**  
**Heritage Committee**  
**Homewood Council for the Arts**  
**Homewood Rail Committee**  
**Plan Commission**  
**Police Chief's Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Senior Advisory Committee**  
**Storm water Resource Committee**  
**Tree Committee**  
**Veterans Committee**  
**Village Board of Trustees**  
**Zone Board of Appeals**



## Shop Home Sweet Homewood

*Please join us in welcoming the following recently opened or relocated businesses in Homewood. Stop in say hello, and don't forget to support local business by thinking Homewood first when you shop, dine, and buy!*

- Concrete Restoration Solutions  
18646 Dixie Highway
- The Cottage on Dixie  
18849 Dixie Highway
- McDermott Law Group, LLC  
2001 Ridge Road

Scan to access the  
Village Web site



LORENZ APPLIANCE  
10683806

BAIRD WARNER  
10683769

# PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Department of  
Public Works  
17755 South Ashland Avenue  
206-3470

## Spring 2013 Infrastructure Projects

### 2013 Street Resurfacing Project

Nine street sections, several alleys, and a parking lot will be resurfaced and repaired this Spring::

- Cowing Court from 183rd Street to Willow Road
- Homewood Avenue from 183rd Street to Evergreen Road
- Birch Road from Dixie Highway to Highland Avenue
- Evergreen Road from Dixie Highway to Highland Avenue
- Loomis Avenue from Hickory Road to Olive Road
- Martin Avenue from Chestnut Road to Hickory Road
- Chestnut Road from Harwood Avenue to Dixie Highway
- Kroner from Harwood Avenue to Martin Avenue
- Kroner Parking Lot
- East Dixie Alley from Hickory Road to Ridge Road
- East Harwood Alley from Hickory Road to Olive Road
- East/West Harwood Alley from Harwood Avenue to Martin Avenue.

### 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program

This annual program consists of repairing and replacing sidewalks on a cost-sharing basis. For residential sidewalks, the Village pays 50 percent and the resident pays 50 percent, depending on the condition of the walk.

### Ridge Road IDOT Resurfacing Project

The Illinois Department of Transportation will be resurfacing Ridge Road from Halsted Street into Thornton.

### Halsted Street Bridge Replacement

The Illinois Department of Transportation will be replacing the bridge on Halsted Street just south of Ridge Road, which crosses the abandoned IC Railroad (now part of Izaak Walton trail).

## 2013 Spring TreeShare Program

The Village of Homewood's TreeShare Program offers its residents a chance to purchase selected trees and plant them anywhere on their property (private or parkway), as long as there are no utility conflicts involved.



The Village splits the cost with the purchasing resident, giving residents a

savings of 50%. The Village will deliver purchased trees to the parkway, free-of-charge, with planting instructions attached. The Village cannot plant the trees.

Tree selections and pricing can be found at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com). The deadline for ordering is March 30.



# TreeShare

For additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (708) 206-3470.

AURELIOS  
10682538

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT  
CENTER  
10685641

DECK PRO  
10684881

STATE FARM  
RON WILLIAMS  
10662936

GLENWOOD OAKS  
10684760

# FINANCE & MANAGER'S OFFICE NEWS

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

## Vehicle Stickers—Mail it in... Bring it in... Drop it in the drop box...

2013/2014 vehicle sticker applications should arrive in your mailbox after March 31 and stickers may be purchased by mail or in person at the Village Hall. A drop box, located street side by the front door of the Village Hall, is also available for your convenience. Residents who purchased stickers

last year will receive a pre-printed application in the mail. A return envelope is included for your convenience.

Please check the information on the application, making sure it is correct, and return BOTH HALVES with the appropriate payment in the return envelope.

There is a non-shaded area on the application to make any needed corrections. BOTH HALVES of the application are needed for processing. Blank applications are available at the Village Hall.

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

late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed for stickers purchased on June 1 or later. Exceptions are new residents of 30 days or less, or a vehicle purchased within the last 60 days. Proof of date is required. All vehicles that are registered or used in Homewood must have a current vehicle sticker.

## Seniors Get Two Discounted Vehicle Stickers

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

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

## All Vehicle 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 vehicle parking stickers must renew them during April and May. A new application is required each year.

## Pet Licenses

2013/2014 Pet licenses may be purchased at the Village Hall beginning April 1. All dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed with the 2013/2014 animal tag 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.

## Bicycle License

Bicycle licenses may be purchased at the Village Hall. The cost is \$2.00 each, and is valid for

as long as the license holder owns the bike. The serial number on the bicycle is required.

## South Suburban Diversity Dinners Coming Up in April!

Mark Thursday, April 25, 2013 on your calendar and save that date! On that evening area residents will be gathering in private homes, schools, churches and community centers in the South Suburbs to enjoy an intimate dinner with people they have never met before. People of different races, ethnicities, religions, lifestyles and ages will share a delicious meal and engage in lively conversations about their common goals, discuss their differences, address misconceptions and offer solutions to strengthen their communities. They will be participating in the Sixteenth Annual South Suburban Diversity Dinners, which began in the 1990's and has continued each year since as a celebration of the rich diversity of our South Suburban communities.

We invite all area residents to join us for this important and inspirational event by being either a host or a guest. All participants

must be at least 14 years of age or older. There is no cost for the dinners which are provided by the South Suburban Diversity Dinners committee and prepared by an area caterer. Training is provided for those interested in hosting a dinner. Registration forms are due by April 18th, 2013 and will be available at your local Village Halls and area libraries, or by visiting our new webpage at [rich227.org/ssdd](http://rich227.org/ssdd).

For more information call Betsy Williams at (708) 679-5728.

"Great achievements are not born from a single vision but from the combination of many distinctive viewpoints. Diversity challenges assumptions, opens minds, and unlocks our potential to solve any problems we may face." — Source Unknown



### April 9, 2013 Consolidated Election Key Dates

3/12/2013	Last day to register to vote at Village Hall
3/13/2013 -4/06/13	Grace period registration and voting at Cook County Clerk's Office (69 Washington, Floor 5) and designated locations chosen by the Cook County Clerk's Office
3/25/2013 -4/06/13	Early Voting at designated locations chosen by the Cook County Clerk's Office
4/09/2013	Election Day voting hours are 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Visit [cookcountyclerk.com](http://cookcountyclerk.com) for more information and locations

HOMEWOOD  
DISPOSAL  
10683794

BARTELTSEN  
JOANNE  
10684877

STATE FARM ANGELO  
10685020

STAR  
NAILS SPA  
10684395

EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS  
10684170

MULCHMASTERS  
10683795

ATHENS KING OF GYROS  
10684388

SWARTZ REMODELING  
10561291

# PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Departments of Police & Fire

17950 Dixie Highway

Police Non-Emergency - 206-3420 | Fire Non-Emergency - 206-3400

## Homewood Fire Department adds to Its Ranks

Over the past several months the fire department has added one additional full-time and three part-time members.

The department's newest full-time member is Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Sullivan. Sean comes to the department from the Village of Romeoville where he began his fire service career in 2010. Sullivan holds a Bachelors Degree in Communications from Carthage College.

Sean Glowa, Mike Lampkin and Brandon Lindemulder have joined the department as part-time employees.

Sean Glowa is a firefighter/paramedic and has been a paid-on-call member of the Park Forest Fire Department since 2009. He joined the Homewood Fire Department in November of 2012.

Mike Lampkin is new to the fire service. He is certified by the State of Illinois as a firefighter having

attended and graduated from the MABAS Division 24 Fire Academy in 2012. Mike is also certified as a paramedic.

Brandon Lindemulder comes to the Homewood Fire Department from the Roberts Park Fire Department where he began fire fighting in 2010. In 2012, he was certified as a paramedic by the State of Illinois. Brandon holds an Associates Degree in Fire Service Management.

## Homewood Fire Department Donates "Engine 12"

On November 25, 2012, Homewood Fire Department Engine 12 was transferred to the Fire Museum of Greater Chicago. After months of negotiations, the 1957 FWD (Four Wheel Drive Corporate) Pumper was sent to the museum.

Engine 12 began life with the HFD in 1957 when it was purchased at a cost of just over \$23,000. The engine remained in service with the fire department

until 1982. It was sold to the Greater Round Lake Fire Protection district where it remained for many years. It returned, under private ownership, to Homewood in 1995 and was restored and then sold to the Homewood Fire Department Association in 2004. When the



association dissolved, the decision was made to donate old Engine 12 to the fire museum.

Once refurbished, the engine is scheduled to be displayed as the museum's only example of a FWD engine.

## Spring Can Mean Big Changes in the Weather. Are You Prepared?

As spring approaches and the weather changes, the potential for wild weather increases. The Homewood Fire Department wants residents to be prepared to face these rapidly changing weather conditions.

- Have a working weather radio and extra batteries to stay informed
- Have several working flashlights and lots of extra batteries.
- Create an emergency supply kit for your family with enough food, water and extra clothes for at least 3 days. For more information about a family emergency kit, go to [ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://ready.gov/build-a-kit) or stop by the

- fire station and pick up an emergency supply list.
- If the power goes out in your neighborhood, watch for fallen wires, broken utility poles or tree limbs on power lines. Stay clear of power lines or anything touching a power line. Assume a downed cable or wire is live and dangerous.
  - If your basement floods wait for the water to clear, by nature or pump, before entering to assess damage.

### Generator Safety

If you have a generator, make certain it is connected by a licensed electrician.

NEVER operate a generator in the house, garage, basement or any other enclosed area. A generator needs to be at least 3 to 4 feet away from any enclosed area as well as away from doors, windows and fresh air intakes where exhaust fumes and carbon monoxide can enter the home.

Have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home.

NEVER fuel a generator when it is running. Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling.

For more information about spring storms, tornadoes and severe weather check out the Homewood Fire Department web pages at [homesweethomewood.com](http://homesweethomewood.com)

## March is Poison Prevention Month

March is National Poison Prevention Month and a good time to remind yourself about the poisons that lurk in your home.

Take a moment to read over the following list:

**Drugs**—Never share prescription medicines. If you are taking more than one drug at a time, check with your health care provider, pharmacist, or call the toll-free Poison Help line 1 (800) 222-1222, which connects you to your local poison center, to find out more about possible drug interactions.

Follow directions on the label when you give or take medicines. Read all warning labels. Some medicines cannot be taken safely when you take other medicines or drink alcohol.

Turn on a light when you give or take medicines at night so that you know you have the correct amount of the right medicine.

Keep medicines in their original bottles or containers.

Dispose of old and expired medicines in an approved fashion.

**Chemicals**—Always read the label before using a product that may be poisonous.

Keep chemical products in their original bottles or containers. Do not use food containers such as cups, bottles, or jars to store chemical products such as cleaning solutions or beauty products.

Never mix household products together. For example, mixing bleach and ammonia can result in toxic gases.

Wear protective clothing (gloves, long sleeves, long pants, socks, shoes) if you spray pesticides or other chemicals.

Turn on the fan and open windows when using chemical products such as household cleaners.

Keep all chemicals, household cleaners, medicines, and potentially poisonous substances in locked cabinets or out of the reach of children.

# Homewood's Business-Friendly Incentive Programs Attract New Business and Investment

**Effective business incentive programs equip many municipalities with a competitive advantage, resulting in dynamic economic changes for the town.**

In January, the Village Board approved revisions to its business incentive programs. These programs resurrect and encourage new investment from the private sector in designated commercial areas around town. Many times, they are the final piece of a much larger financing package that allows a project to come to fruition when private finance dollars are limited. Effective business incentive programs equip many municipalities with a competitive advantage over neighboring communities, resulting in dynamic economic changes for the town. Whether used to help finance the construction of a new business on a vacant property, secure a new business for an empty building, or to provide an existing business with a portion

of the funds needed to make improvements, the overarching goal of using business incentive programs is to ensure Homewood is a desirable and prosperous place for residents, shoppers, businesses, and investors—for years to come.

Some of Homewood's business incentive programs are funded by using Tax Increment Financing, or TIF. TIF generates money by capturing the property tax revenue, or increment, above the initial assessed value during the life of the district. The tax increment from a TIF district is created without raising taxes and without dipping in the tax value present at the time of adoption. Once the TIF expires, the district, having seen investment

and improvements throughout the life of the TIF, assesses at a higher value thus, yielding higher tax revenue going forward for local taxing bodies, such as the park district, library, and schools.

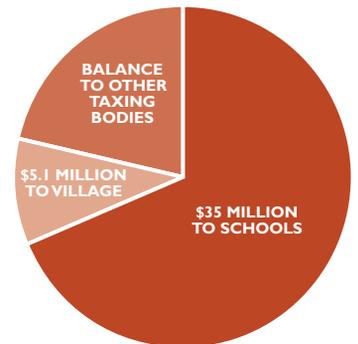
TIF districts were not designed

to help improve any one business or property; they were created as an economic tool to improve the overall economic development of the entire area covered by the TIF district. Even though some properties do not directly receive TIF incentives, they still benefit from the ones that do because improvements those businesses make will increase their property value, attract more development or improvements and draw more people to a commercial area who will patronize businesses. The incentives available in TIF districts create a ripple effect for the whole district.

Two examples of TIF success are the Washington Park District, which spans portions of Halsted Street and 175th Street to include the Prairie Lakes Business Park (created and occupied by over eight large manufacturing employers) and the Central Business District, or downtown Homewood. Over the course of two decades, because of the industrial and new retail businesses established, the two districts' values increased from \$4 million to approximately \$72 million, which allowed the Village to return \$51 million in TIF surplus funds to the other taxing bodies, including over



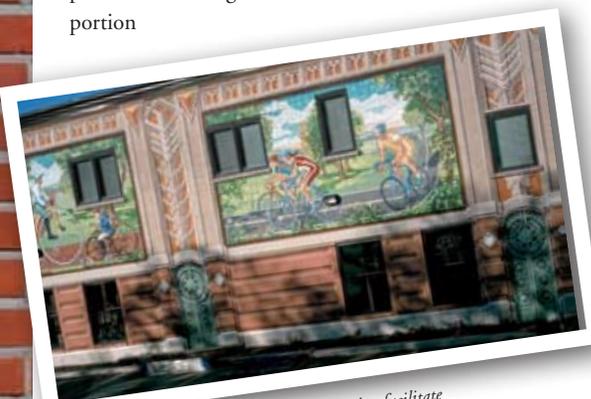
\$35 million to Homewood schools, which averages out to \$1.75 million a year.



SINCE 1992 THE VILLAGE HAS ISSUED OVER \$51 MILLION IN SURPLUS TIF FUNDS

In the past two years, Homewood has welcomed many new investments in its TIF-eligible commercial districts, bolstering Homewood's attractiveness for future investment and an enhanced quality of life for residents: The Cottage on Dixie Restaurant (Dixie Highway/Southgate), Global Fusion Home Décor (Dixie Highway/Downtown), and Grape & Grain Co. wine and beer tasting (Dixie Highway/Downtown).

Without business-friendly incentives to provide Homewood with a competitive edge, many of these projects wouldn't have come to fruition. TIF funds are also used for public infrastructure improvements such as street repaving, decorative sidewalk brick pavers, lighting and the expansion of Homewood's public art collection of Richard Haas Murals—the largest in the world



TIF Incentive Programs helped to facilitate Homewood's public art collection of Richard Haas Murals.



Proposed front elevation and signage for Lassen's Tap 2131 183rd Street. Illustration courtesy of Linden Group, Orland Park, IL.

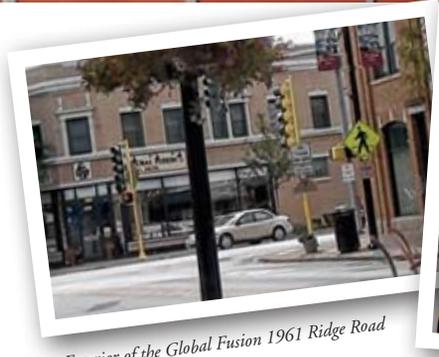


and a rising tourist attraction, bringing visitors and shoppers to town.

This year, TIF will enable Homewood's business districts to benefit once again from the following developments and reinvestments:

- La Banque, an upscale, boutique hotel with street-level restaurant and bar, purchased by the owner of Ravisloe Country Club, will begin construction at the previous site of Great Lakes Bank in downtown Homewood.
- Improvements to the old Rickshaw and adjoining storefront to welcome a full-service bakery; Former Flossmoor Sweet Annie's Bakery will round out its offering with award-winning cake designer, Karen Scobbie Cake Designs and Elixir Chocolates.
- Longtime neighborhood "watering hole", Lassen's, is reinvesting in its current location to create the ultimate drinkery and dining experience.

The purpose of the revisions to these programs was to ensure that incentives continue to be approved judiciously and appropriately. Village staff meets with the other taxing bodies once a year to review the projects and performance of the TIF districts and on a more regular basis with the H-F Park District, Homewood Library, H-F High School, and School District



*Exterior of the Global Fusion 1961 Ridge Road*



*Exterior of the Grape & Grain Co. 18031 Dixie Highway*

153 to provide more frequent updates on development projects. As an outcome of these meetings, members of these four taxing bodies provided input to safeguard the investment of TIF dollars. Businesses that receive TIF assistance have specific performance measures to meet before incentives are paid out in their entirety. TIF recipients must also ensure all outstanding debt to the Village is paid prior to any disbursement of funds and provide assurances that the property will not become tax-exempt. In many instances, TIF dollars are dispersed incrementally, based upon the longevity of the business. This protects the investment into the business by requiring them to remain in business for a period of time in order to receive the full incentive amount. If they close before the set period they do not get the future incentive amounts and are required to pay back incentives they already received. The Village recently recouped \$10,000 from a business that closed within three years after receiving the incentive. In

addition, if a property is transferred to a tax exempt entity, a portion of the incentive must be repaid.

Homewood continues to build a business-friendly reputation within the region. In times when small businesses struggle to compete with larger corporations and entrepreneurs have limited access to financing, Homewood's TIF incentive programs can offer assistance to projects that stimulate growth and improve long-term marketability of our town.

**Homewood's TIF Incentive Program**

The revisions to the existing programs as well as the new guidelines for projects of greater significance will provide for a more efficient and effective review of incentive requests. The new program guidelines have been designed to maximize the leverage of private investment with the goal of creating increased tax increment within the TIF districts. Contact the Community Development Department for a full description of each program: (708) 206-3385.

provides additional opportunity for existing businesses to apply for incentives by allowing remodeling costs as an eligible expense. Property and business owners may apply for funding once every two years. Incentives are capped at \$25,000. Soft costs related to design assistance has been capped at 10% of total eligible project cost or \$2,500,

whichever is greater. Incentives can be approved for demolition projects provided plans for new construction have been approved on the property or a portion of the building remains open for business.

**Retail Enhancement Program**

This program remains a recruiting tool for targeted businesses. It also provides funding for the expansion of existing businesses. The list of desired retail businesses the Village strives to attract has been expanded. The program continues to be capped at \$10,000. Retail consulting and design services are capped at 50% of eligible expenses.

**Go Green Reward Program**

The intent remains the same with this program as a tool to encourage environmentally sustainable improvements to property located within the Village's TIF districts. The program is now capped at \$5,000. Standards have also been established by which staff can better evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed improvements.

**Other Incentive Requests**

Guidelines have also been established for those projects of greater scope and significant public value to the community. These projects require a minimum private investment of \$150,000 (exclusive of Village incentives). Preference is given to those projects with an identified use, although incentives may be provided to projects without an identified use.

**Façade and Property Improvement Program**

The focus of this program remains substantially the same with an emphasis on façade improvements and code compliance. The revised program



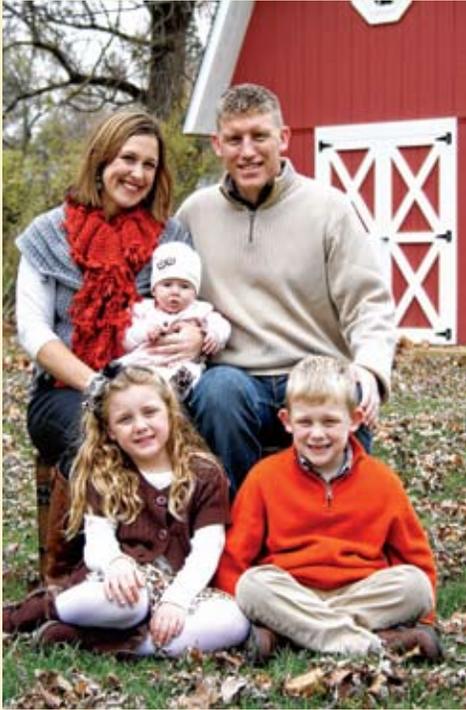
*Interior of The Cottage on Dixie*



*Exterior of The Cottage on Dixie 18849 Dixie Highway*

# YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY

While many Chicagoland communities are seeing a decline in children aged 9 and under, Homewood continues to welcome young families who focus on quality of place and quality of life—without an enormous price tag. Many of the Homewood moms interviewed in this article were initially featured in Chicago Parent's February 2013, which reported on the "countless city girls and professional guys who have made the pilgrimage," and found Homewood as the Right Place to Raise a Family.



Picture taken in their backyard in front of the new red barn Chris built.

The sole reason we chose to move to Homewood was because of the school system's grade center approach. We love the cultural mix in the neighborhoods of Homewood. Regardless of where you live in town, everyone goes to Willow for Kindergarten. There are no issues with tendencies of cultural segregation in distinct areas of town—based on the boundaries for various schools. We could look for a home nearly anywhere in town with the confidence that Homewood is culturally integrated and the fabric of your neighborhood—race, diversity, socio-economic—is mostly consistent throughout town and the same friends in your neighborhood and across town—all go to the same school! The grade center approach is a fantastic approach to keeping Home Sweet Homewood a wonderful mix of families with diverse backgrounds in common neighborhoods.

Homewood since 2009

## THE STINES

We moved to Homewood in 2009. We were outgrowing our townhome, needed a yard to call our own, and needed to start thinking about the school system and living in a place that was the best choice for our kids' education. We wanted a good family-centered community. We grew up in small-town America (towns of less than 1,000 people in very rural areas), so we knew if our kids wouldn't have that experience, then we would want them to grow up in a community with bountiful offerings of park district activities, community events, and a widely acclaimed school system—which were all things that we as kids didn't have in a small town with little funds. We also chose this area in general because of the Metra Electric train line. We are big believers in getting to and from work as quickly as possible—and that leads to more time at home for evening scouts, ball games, and dates at the park.

"Every year, the last Saturday in April, as our kids parade with their teams down Ridge to celebrate opening day (Homewood Baseball) once again—we're reminded of how much we love this town! Homewood is still a little piece of 'Small Town America' and we can't imagine being anywhere else!"

— Tabitha Stine



Homewood since 2009

## THE MAHARRYS

"We were in a quandary. My husband and I had, up until this point, loved the life Chicago offered us. We attended shows and ran along the lakefront and relished in the nightlife of the city.

But then, something changed.

We had kids...and it was frustrating to have kids in the city," explains Maharry.

"There was always a fight for resources. If I wanted to sign up the kids for a park district program, I didn't want to have to get up early in the morning or wait in a huge line. I knew it was time for a change."

"In August of 2009, we made the move to Homewood. Chicago is still close enough that you can enjoy all it has to offer," concludes Maharry. "It's just nice to come back home to Homewood afterwards."

ST. JOES  
10685363

SWEET  
ANNIES  
10683810

GLOBAL  
FUSION  
10616350

PAULA  
MATTHEWS  
10683779



Homewood Since 2011  
**THE DEYOS**

In 2008, after our first child was born, we decided to abandon the concrete, smoggy sprawl of Los Angeles, CA and move somewhere that family and community meant

something. We briefly settled in Nashville, TN, but after a year we opted to relocate to Homewood where I had lived as a child and had experienced so many wonderful memories.

Pregnant with my second child, I really looked forward to settling my family in a safe community with great schools and an awesome park district. We liked the feeling of familiarity a small town can boast, but after living in LA and the music-scene in Nashville, we also wanted to be near the culture of a big city—just a train ride away from where we now live. Personally, being a stay-at-home mom of three (now), I really appreciate that all my regular needs can be taken care of in-town with Target, Best Buy, JoAnn Fabrics, TJ Maxx, Walgreens and even Petco all located a few blocks away. I love that there are so

many ways to meet other families here—the library, great family events, great park district offerings, etc.

Another reason for choosing Homewood, was the eclectic housing stock. We love the plethora of vintage homes available, as one-of-a-kind fits our style. Homewood isn't full of a bunch of cookie cutter houses, but unique buildings that have been built over the last hundred years—tudor houses, mid-century modern, bungalows, cape cods, Victorians, etc. etc. etc. We settled on a 1930's Tudor with many of the original features and only one previous owner! When friends come to visit, I can actually direct them to my home without a street number. The description of the home alone sets it apart. I love that. It just really makes for such a rich looking neighborhood.



Homewood since 2003  
**THE LENGELS**

“We love the fact that our park district offers so many programs for all age groups, specifically for kids,” explains Cemile Lengel, a resident of Homewood since 2003. “For instance, our daughter took swim, tennis, soccer, and skating classes and enjoyed them all. We were also impressed with the strong sense of community, friendly people and good neighbors.

Homewood since 2004  
**THE JURYS**

“We looked at homes in the neighboring southern suburbs and in the western suburbs but we kept coming back to Homewood because we felt there were more amenities,” explained Jessie Jury, who moved to Homewood from the city with her husband Tim in 2004. “The train and proximity to downtown was a big draw, as well as the beauty of mature trees, the diversity, the active park district and the quaint downtown area.”



Homewood since 2007  
**THE HOLASKAS**

“We were looking to own a home with a yard and a bit more space than our apartment, enroll our son in a great preschool, and become part of a community that was less transient than our city neighborhood, all while keeping the commute to work reasonable,” explains resident Claudine Holaska, who moved to Homewood from Hyde Park in 2007. “After looking at homes in Homewood and Flossmoor, we finally settled in Homewood.”



SUZIES  
HALLMARK  
10495825

SALEM  
LUTHERAN  
10682537

BRENDA  
MORGAN  
10684874

DOWNTOWN  
HOMWOOD  
10640522

# SPRING HAPPENINGS

## March

### ST. JOSEPH FISH FRY

Every Friday through March 30  
4:30 PM to 8:00 PM  
St. Joseph Parish Gym,  
17949 Dixie Highway  
St. Joseph Athletic Association  
[posjhomewood.org](http://posjhomewood.org) | (708) 798-0622

Every Friday during Lent, the St. Joseph Athletic Association sponsors a fish fry as the primary fundraiser for the sport programs offered at St. Joseph. The sports include boys and girls basketball and volleyball. The association funds a scholarship program to assist children in financial need the opportunity to play sports. The association also uses funds raised to reinvest into the Parish's facilities like the gym and kitchen to further improve the quality of St. Joseph Parish life. Over the years, the St. Joseph Fish Fry has become a community-wide event. People come from all over to eat and socialize, and catch up with one another. There are split-the-pots and raffles every evening. The menu is second to none and affordable: All-you-can-eat, hand-breaded Alaskan Pollock fish dinner with curly fries, coleslaw, roll and desert at \$9.00 per person; child \$6.00; Seniors \$7.00 from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Back by popular demand Catfish Nugget dinner and the 8 piece Shrimp Dinner for \$9.00. For the pasta lovers, there is a spaghetti dinner that includes coleslaw, roll and a desert for \$5.00, Mac-&-Cheese for \$5.00 and curly fries for \$3.00. A premium beer selection from Flossmoor Station and Grape and Grain, wine, coffee, milk water, and pop are also available. If you can't stay...no worries, there are to-go options as well!

### LUCKY EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 16 | 10:00 AM  
Irwin Park  
Sponsored by Family Video and the  
Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

As the sirens sound on the Homewood Fire Truck, a special guest will arrive to start this year's Lucky Egg Hunt for ages 6 and under. Bring your basket to collect eggs. Try to find the Lucky Eggs that give you an extra prize! Mom and Dad, don't forget your camera as pictures with the bunny will be available after the hunt. Rain Location: H-F Sports Complex.



### FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT

Friday, March 22  
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
Irons Oaks  
Sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

Try this twist on the traditional egg hunt—a trail of goody-filled eggs that have been left in the forest at Irons Oaks. Bring your flashlight and find some of those eggs to take home. We'll decorate a unique basket first then head outside to find the eggs. This program is designed for kids ages 3-8. All children will find eggs! Please register by March 21. Fee: \$10 R / \$15 NR

### NERF® WARS

Tuesday, March 26  
HFPD Auditorium  
Age 8 and under | 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Age 9 to 12 | 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Age 13 to 16 | 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

The ultimate in Nerf fun as you battle, diving behind padded barricades and take your team to victory! Teams of 4-5 are encouraged to have creative battle gear in the quest for ultimate pride. Teams must be ready at the start time of their age bracket to go over safety rules of the double elimination tournament. Team Fee: \$35 R / \$52.50 NR

## April

### HOMWOOD SCHOOLS SPRING AUCTION

Saturday, April 13  
6:00 PM to 11:00 PM  
Ravisloe Country Club, 18231 Park Ave  
[Foundation153.org](http://Foundation153.org)

Foundation 153 presents its 8th annual fundraiser and auction for Homewood Schools. The Foundation's mission is to enrich students and teachers through funding educational experiences beyond the school district's reach. Support Foundation 153 by attending their "Spring for Homewood Schools" fundraiser. Purchase your early bird ticket of \$45.00 until April 8. Tickets then increase to \$55.00.

### HOMWOOD BASEBALL'S 62ND SEASON OPENING

Saturday, April 20  
Parade starts 11:00 AM  
Irwin Park

Homewood Baseball & Softball is once again looking forward to warmer weather and Opening Day of Baseball & Softball season! We'll follow tradition with the parade leading off from Irwin Park at 11:00 AM and all teams



progressing East on Ridge Road to Izaak Walton for our Opening Day Ceremonies, first pitch and first games.

Part of the tradition of Homewood Baseball & Softball is parent involvement. Parents volunteer to run concessions, clean-ups, help with field preparations and other necessary functions that help make Homewood Baseball & Softball one of the best programs around!

Parents who were once players are now board members, league presidents, stand directors, commissioners or coaches who are now leading their children in the excitement of practices, games and new friendships! Whether you're a parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle, or even a resident whose children have played in years past or are just beginning to play, we invite you to join us! From T-Ball through Babe Ruth & Senior's, and everything in between, Homewood Baseball and Softball is where the action is! Be part of the tradition!

### EARTH DAY AT THE OAKS

Saturday, April 20  
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Irons Oaks' Vollmer Road Lot  
Sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

Celebrate Earth Week with Irons Oaks! Climb on a tower as tall as a maple tree, discover nature's recyclers, go on a nature hike, visit our Discovery Center museum, enjoy a hot dog by the fire and much more! Enjoy music by folk singer Anna Stange and hands-on presentations with Mad Science. This day is all about celebrating our earth. Visit [ironsoaks.com](http://ironsoaks.com) for full details.

### WILLIAM MCDOWELL MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY

Saturday, April 20  
8:00 AM to 11:30 AM  
Dolphin Lake  
Sponsored by the McDowell Family and Henry's Sports, Bait & Marine

Take this opportunity to teach someone the joy of fishing with the opportunity to win prizes. Kids are eligible for the bike raffle; all ages will vie for prizes for catching the biggest fish and everyone will be in the raffle. Fifteen years and younger are free, ages 16 & up will need their Illinois fishing license and a Dolphin Lake fishing permit. Your permit allows you to participate in both the spring and fall fishing derbies. Permits are available at the Goldberg Center and Irwin Community Center for \$5 R / \$15 NR.

## GreenThumb Saturdays

Green Thumb Saturdays is a free, monthly presentation about various gardening topics, co-sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Program and The Village of Homewood's tree Committee. Presentations will be held Saturdays at 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM in the Village Hall Council Chambers at 2020 Chestnut Road in Homewood.

### How To Programs:

Pruning Trees and Shrubs | March 9  
Children's Earth & Arbor Day Activities | April 13  
(this event will be held at 17755 South Ashland Avenue)  
Container Gardens | May 11  
Organic Vegetable Gardening | June 8  
Butterfly Gardening | July 13  
Beyond Rain Barrels | August 10  
Putting Your Garden to Bed | September 14

The University of Illinois Extension  
Master Gardeners of Homewood

Homewood Master Gardeners that are making a difference in The Village of Homewood are:

- JASON BALDAUF—Homewood Tree Committee Member and Green Thumb Saturdays Presenter and Team Member
- GINA BANKS—Village Hall, Firehouse and Martin Street flower beds and planters
- AL GUGER—Homewood Tree Committee Member and Green Thumb Saturdays Team Member
- MAUREEN GUGER—Chairwoman of Homewood Tree Committee and Green Thumb Saturdays Presenter and Facilitator
- SUSAN WILLIAMS—Homewood Tree Committee Member and Green Thumb Saturdays Facilitator
- REGINA ZOHFELD—Homewood Tree Committee Member and Team Leader of Willow School Interactive Garden
- CHARLENE DYER (Master Gardener Alumni)—Village Hall planters and Martin and Chestnut St. planters

Homewood Master Gardeners that are enriching our South Suburbs are: Charles Boysen, Shermaine Brown-Wade, Jo Hayes, and Tomacenna Lyle

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners receive 60 classroom hours of training from U of I horticulture faculty, then volunteer a minimum of 60 hours for certification. To stay active and certified, they volunteer at least 30 hours each year in approved projects in our community or neighboring communities, and participate in continuing education.

## May

### MOM AND SON GAME NIGHT

Friday, May 3 | 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM  
Irons Oaks  
Sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

Join us for this night of games, challenges, and lots of fun as mom and son

(ages 6-12) participate in team-building group activities. After the games, we'll roast marshmallows around the campfire. We'll make sure to take some pictures (feel free to bring a camera as well). Dress for outside activities and games (weather permitting). Fee: \$18 R / \$27 NR per pair, \$8 R / \$12 NR per additional child

**27TH ANNUAL PARK PRIDE DAY**

Saturday, May 4 | 8:30 AM park work begins at Area Parks; 11:00 AM lunch at Irwin Park  
Sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

Join in the fun as hundreds of volunteers join together once a year to beautify their parks for summer use. We'll plan the work to be done, while you provide the manpower. All volunteers get a free t-shirt and lunch at Irwin Park, provided by area businesses. Park captains are needed: call (708) 957-0300 if you can help in this capacity. Get back outside and socialize with your neighbors; make it a party! Park Pride Day is also a great opportunity for kids, scout groups, churches and other service organizations to give back to their community. So grab a friend, head to your favorite park and be a part of a great day.

**HOMWOOD FARMERS MARKET**

Season Opens May 18  
Every Saturday | 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Village Hall Parking Lot, 2020 Chestnut Road  
Besidoun Market and Village of Homewood  
Homesweethomewood.com  
(708) 798-3000

The 22-week season will start Saturday, May 18. It is in its 33rd year, and considered one of the longest running markets in the Chicagoland! Enjoy the freshest produce, flowers, baked goods, and new vendors from Indiana and Michigan. We will also be adding ready-to-eat foods and restaurants, so you can grab breakfast or lunch and enjoy the scheduled entertainment every Saturday: music, kid-projects, and the popular Touch of Green events. Visit the market every Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Village Hall parking lot.



**HOMWOOD FARMERS' MARKET**  
EST. 1982  
A BESIDOUN MARKET



**2013 H-F 5K SUMMER CIRCUIT: START WITH THE APOLLO 5K**

Saturday, May 18 | 7:00 AM  
Registration  
8:00 AM Race Starts  
Apollo Park  
Sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

Sign up for our three timed races and compete to win a grand prize, given to the individuals with the best overall times in all three races! Your non-refundable fee includes registration, Tech T-shirts and day-of-race entertainment. Pre-Circuit registration ends at noon on Thursday, May 16. The three races are the Apollo 5K, the Run for Freedom, and the Flossmoor 5K. Summer Circuit Fee (all three races): \$54 R / \$62 NR. Apollo 5K Pre-registration fee: \$22 R / \$25 NR, Apollo 5K Race-day registration fee: \$30

**RAIL HERITAGE DAYS**

Train Show  
Sunday, May 19 | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
HFPD Auditorium, 2010 Chestnut  
Homewood Rail Committee  
Homesweethomewood.com  
(708) 798-3000

This year, the 10th annual Railroad Heritage Days will be Sunday, May 19. In addition to the vendors, layouts, and equipment display, "Lil Obie" from Canadian National will be giving rides to kids of all ages. For information on this year's "Railroad Heritage Days", please contact Dan Gunderson at (708) 957-7944 or e-mail: d.gunderson@sbcglobal.net.



Mark Your Calendars!

**ART AND GARDEN STREET FAIR**

Friday, June 7  
11:00 AM to 9:00 PM  
Saturday, June 8  
10:00 AM to 9:00 PM  
Downtown  
Homewood, Martin Avenue and Ridge Road  
Village of Homewood and Downtown Homewood Business Association



The 6th Annual Downtown Homewood Art and Garden Street Fair showcases Homewood's artistic side with art, activities, music, food and more.

Kicking off the festivities at noon on Friday is Grammy Nominated children's performer Justin Roberts and The Not Ready For Nap Time Players. This two-day

festival features over 45 unique artisans and vendors, activities for all ages, gardening workshops, music from around the world and food from Homewood's best restaurants.

Homewood has hosted art festivals for over 40 years. This festival showcases many of Chicago and Chicagoland's talented artistic exhibitors



displaying all forms of paint application, photography, printmaking, antique jewelry, antique furniture, art glass, art works, decorative art, glass ware, textiles and handicrafts, from traditional forms to the avant-garde.

This festival is free and open to the public; however, there is a fee for specific art activities. For more information or to sign up for an activity visit homesweethomewood.com, or call (708) 798-3000.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

Monday, May 27  
10:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
Step-off at St. Joseph Church

We may look at Memorial Day as the official kick off to summer, but let us not forget it is a day to honor those fallen soldiers serving our country and protecting our freedoms. The Homewood Memorial Day Parade is coordinated by the Wally Burns Memorial Post 8077 and the Veteran of Foreign Wars (Homewood). The Parade route is from St. Joseph Parish Parking lot, on Dixie Highway, to Veteran's Park, located on Harwood Avenue and Olive Road, across from Aurelio's Pizza.

June

**DOG JOG HALF-MILE RUN**

Saturday, June 1 | 8:00 AM Registration  
9:00 AM Race Starts  
Apollo Park  
Sponsored by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

Why should humans have all the fun when it comes to racing? We're opening up the chute for on-leash dogs to join their humans in this 1/2 mile race. Whether you (or your dog) prefer racing, jogging or walking, this event is for you and your friendly hound. Fee: \$10 R / \$15 NR

WOOD RECYCLERS  
10684160

SPAHHS SPAHHS  
10684167

HOMEWOOD HEARING  
10683802

ALECK PLUMBING  
10661406

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Homewood PTA Celebrates 100th Year of Service to District 153 Schools

Since its inception in 1913, the Homewood Parent Teacher Association (HPTA) has maintained its commitment to Homewood Schools by providing volunteers, financial support and valuable services and programs over the last 100 years.

Through the years, HPTA has been involved in many activities to promote the well being of its children. Here is a sampling of some of its activities: HPTA started the first hot lunch program in the schools; provided physicals and immunizations for incoming Kindergartners; provided a summer art program for students; and supervised "Summer Library" at the schools which provided kids with reading opportunities over the summer. HPTA has provided countless monthly programs and parent education opportunities through the years as well.

The District's enrollment during the "baby boom" years experienced

enormous growth, making it difficult to keep pace, and requiring new school buildings. Additions were needed almost immediately when the buildings were finished.

District enrollment during the 1950-51 school year was 660 and by 1968-69 it had reached its high of 3,100.

It was also during these years, when District resources were being dedicated to having enough classroom space, that PTA was helping out. Between the 1950s and 1960s, HPTA donated a total of \$15,000 to purchase books to help build up the schools' libraries. They also volunteered many hours to help catalog all of the new



books purchased for the schools. HPTA, in 1968, started the "Picture Lady" Program (now called Art Volunteers in the Classroom or AVIC), providing fine arts exposure to many children and volunteer opportunities for parents. In 1969, the schools' libraries remained open all day for the first time, and were staffed by HPTA volunteers. Additionally, in 1969, the Learning Centers were started in our District and were staffed by over 100 HPTA volunteers for the year.

More recently, in 2011, HPTA was instrumental, along with the Citizens for Homewood Schools, in promoting the passage of a property tax increase referendum question. HPTA received the Illinois PTA's "Making it Real for Kids" legislative advocacy award for their efforts.

In 2012, HPTA earned the Illinois PTA Environmental Concerns Award for its part in donating and planting hundreds of trees and shrubs and working on a playground enhancement project at Churchill School.



Today, HPTA continues its dedication to the District by funding many programs including Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (to reinforce good behavior), Brainstormers (a writing program that brings students' stories to the stage) and Rachel's Challenge (promoting kindness and compassion in the school community).

HPTA programs and services provided include the following:

- Reflections
- T.V. Turnoff Week
- Building Chairs
- Room Representatives
- Teacher and Staff Appreciation
- School Beautification
- School Pictures
- Book Fair
- Kindergarten Bus Volunteers
- Art Volunteers in the Classroom

Join us today to continue the legacy of support for Homewood Schools. The National PTA mission is "To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children." HPTA strives to meet this objective today.

To join HPTA, get involved or find a more complete listing of our programs, visit our web site, [homewoodpta.org](http://homewoodpta.org).

### A Holiday Lights Christmas Story

On December 7, members of the Homewood Veterans Committee participated in an event initiated by Suzie's Hallmark Store in downtown Homewood. On the same evening of Holiday Lights, residents from not only Homewood, but surrounding communities came to Suzie's to sign greeting cards, donated by Suzie's, to be sent to the troops in Afghanistan. They also brought donated items for "Santa's bag." They were greeted by U.S. Marines and a U.S. Army Reservist who has served in the mid-East. While visitors shook their hands and some gave hugs, they thanked the military representatives for their service to our Country. Over 350 cards were signed and 250 pounds of items were sent to the Army and Marines serving in Afghanistan. The packages were prepared by the



Homewood Veterans Committee and the owner of Suzie's Hallmark. Included in the packages were books, magazines, food items, toiletries and hand and foot warmers. A spirited resident even donated a pair of red Christmas socks. The evening ended with a member of the Homewood-Flossmoor Band, Jordan Dingle, playing taps. A Veterans Committee member stated "We faced east with our hands on our hearts, and were humbled by all those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom we enjoyed this evening."

### Christmas Tree Recycling Program

By Jennifer Molski

We did it! We are pleased to share with you that this year's program collected 500 Trees and an estimated 1,500 pounds of Holiday Lights! To view a two minute video on our program please visit <http://vimeo.com/57825249>.



Nora and Lydia Vargo of Homewood say "Thank You!"

JOHNS AUTO SERVICE  
10684730

MCELDOWNEY AGENCY  
10563022

KIRSCHNER  
10685492

EGG & I

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Homewood Girl Scouts *By Rachael Bush Middleton, Sycamore Administrative Association Chair*

Homewood Girl Scouts love to help. They volunteer in many capacities. Whether it's picking up trash around the neighborhood, helping local charities, packing or collecting food for the hungry, getting together with older residents to play games, or planting trees, they approach every opportunity to help with an enthusiasm that can't be beat.

Jen Werner's troop 60632 has participated in the Children's Hunger Fund Toy Wrap several times. "The girls really enjoy the Toy Wrap every year. They enjoy the craziness and excitement of having 300 people all working together to see that children get a Christmas present. They are

always amazed to see just how many thousands of little stuffed toys get wrapped in less than three hours."

Several troops have enjoyed working with Kids Who Care, a program to connect young people with seniors. Troops 60012 and 60176 were ready to organize another game night on the spot when they went to Freedom Village, they enjoyed spending time with the residents so much.

Another long-standing project they've been involved with is the Cancer Support Center Walk of Hope. Staffing water tables and cheering runners on have been a traditional fall activity troops look forward to.

Now they'll have a chance to brighten up the train tunnel in Homewood and they couldn't be more excited. "My mom and everyone who takes the train will see it everyday! I can't wait!" said Sarah Love a 4th Grade Junior. Plans are underway for every Homewood Girl Scout troop who wishes to participate to be given an area to express their thoughts on the theme, "Homewood is..." Each troop is selecting an area to concentrate on and working on sketches in February. They hope to be able to send a



*Troop 60012 sketching ideas*

representative to present each idea to the Village so they can practice presentation skills and speaking about artwork. Revisions will be based on commentary and the mural is planned for spring of this year.

And the girls just can't wait.

## The Homewood Project 2013

Thomas' Photographic is pleased to announce the start of the newest addition to The Homewood Project. In 2011, The Homewood Project, also known as the Homewood Yearbook, brought the community together by photographing people in front of their homes, businesses, organizations, churches and events throughout Homewood. The goal was to create a piece of modern history, and

togetherness in the town. Now, the second addition has been started. For the 2013 year, the Thomases will be photographing anyone who wants to be a part of this great project.

As in 2011, the yearbook will be donated to the historical society, library and village. We are excited because the 2013 edition will be made available for purchase this time around. Participation is easy; the Thomases

come out to your home or business and professionally take portraits of people and property. All house numbers and street names are erased from the picture to protect people's privacy. To make an appointment you can visit [thehomewoodproject.com](http://thehomewoodproject.com), call and schedule a time at (708) 960-4265 or drop by the studio during regular business hours. There is a \$25 fee for participants to offset the cost

of production. This project is solely funded by Thomases.

The Homewood Project is coordinated by Thomas' Photographic Services, a Homewood-based business, specializing in location, commercial and portrait photography, along with the arts. The Thomas' have always had deep roots in Homewood with the Thomas family going back five generations.

## Join the Iron Oaks Foundation

If you're an outdoor enthusiast, you've probably participated in one of the many programs held at Irons Oaks. This 40-acre nature preserve at the intersection of Vollmer Road and Western Avenue reaches over 40,000 individuals annually through community events, environmental education programs, and corporate and professional development initiatives.

Much of the important work undertaken at Irons Oaks is supported by financial and volunteer assistance from the Irons Oaks Foundation. The Foundation is a membership organization that connects Irons

Oaks to its surrounding communities through volunteer and member contributions. In recent years, the Foundation has:

- Provided computers, software, and educational tools to be used by students in the Irons Oaks Discovery Center. In addition, the Foundation improved the facility through funding for trail lighting and sound proofing.
- Funded an aerator for the pond so wildlife could better utilize the water and it would be more attractive for visitors.
- Participated in volunteer efforts to clean out invasive plants on the

property that threaten the growth of native species.

- Facilitated memorial gifts to the park; most recently, the Betty Irons Memorial was established to improve natural areas at the entrance to the Administration Building and Spencer Irons Memorial funds were used to plant native plants and trees around the Administration Building.

You can support the Foundation by becoming a member. Membership is \$25 for an individual and \$50 for a family. Membership includes lots of great benefits, like free raffle tickets,

ski or snow shoe rental, and an Open Climbing pass.

To join, pick up a membership form at the Irons Oaks Administration Building or download the form from [ironsoaks.com/foundation](http://ironsoaks.com/foundation) (click on "Get Involved").

On Friday, August 23, members are invited to attend the Member Appreciation Day at Irons Oak from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. At this member-only event, you can climb the tower, visit the Discovery Center, go on a guided nature hike, and learn more about Foundation activities. The Foundation looks forward to seeing all of our new and renewing members!



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

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

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