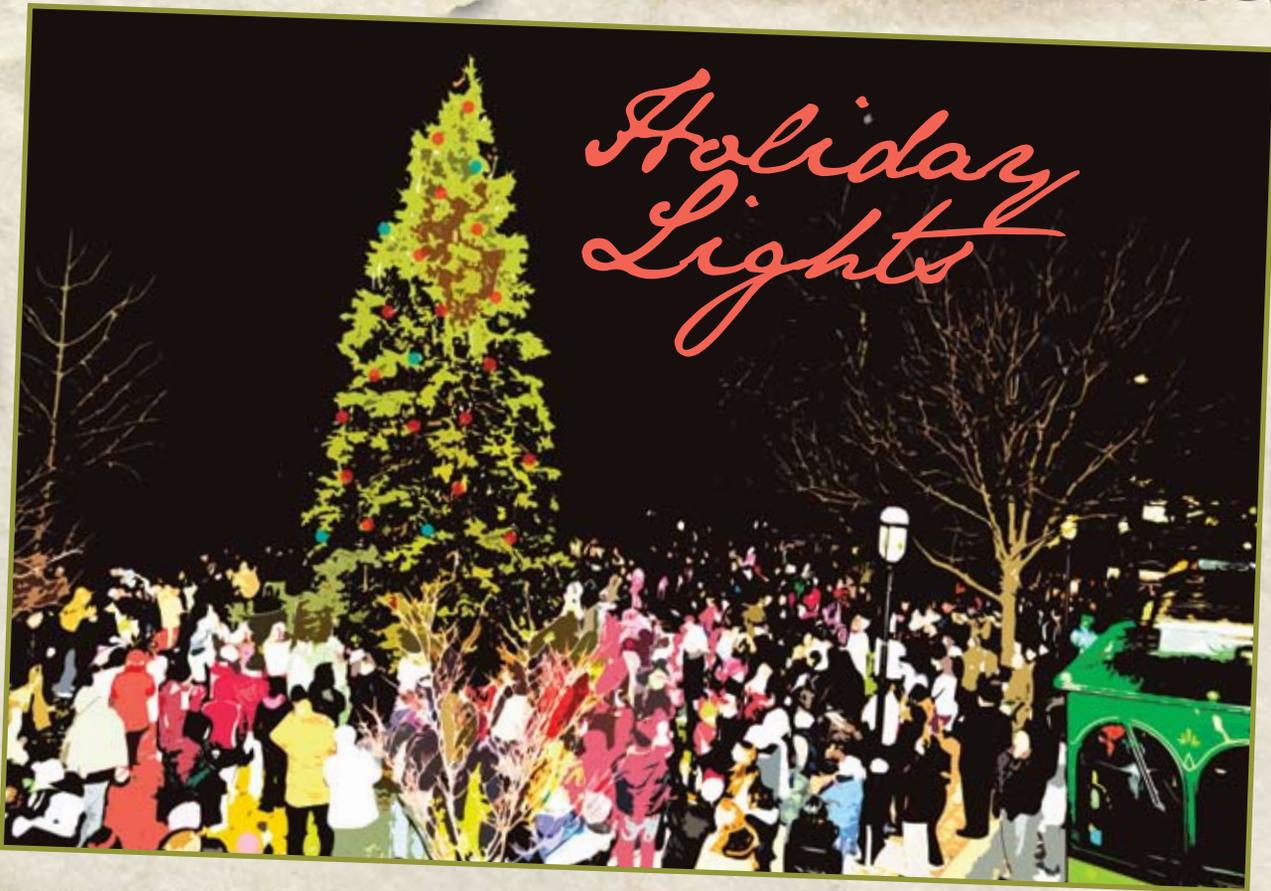


HOMEWOOD VILLAGE KEY

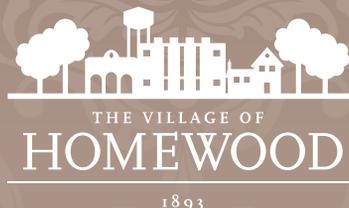
HOMESWEETHOMEWOOD.COM | WINTER 2011

Capture the joy, excitement & traditions of the season, in one memorable evening.



Friday, December 2 • 6:30–9:00 P.M. • Irwin Park

trolley rides
ice carvings
live reindeer
visits with Santa



tree lighting
costume characters
kid holiday crafts
shopping & dining

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.

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25
Village Offices Closed

DECEMBER

Holiday Lights in Homewood
Friday, December 2 | 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Irwin Park and Downtown
Contact the Village of Homewood at (708) 798-3000

Merchant Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 10 | 10:00 PM to 4:00 PM
\$5.00 donation to DHBA and collect cookies from at least five participating businesses for your holiday parties. *Call DHBA Executive Director Dodi Wians at (708) 206-1026*

H-F Community-wide Tree Lighting Effort
Friday, December 16 | 5:00 PM, light luminaria
Contact the Village of Homewood at (708) 798-3000

Winter Begins
Wednesday, December 21

Winter Holiday
Friday thru Monday, December 23 thru 26
Village Offices Closed

New Year's Eve Day Celebration
Saturday, December 31 | 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Village Hall Auditorium
2010 Chestnut Road
Contact the Village of Homewood at (708) 798-3000

JANUARY

New Year's Day Holiday
Monday, January 2, Village Offices Closed

2nd Annual Holiday Tree Recycling
Saturday, January 7 and 14 | 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Iron Oaks Vollmer Lot

Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 16, Village Offices Closed

FEBRUARY

Daddy Daughter Date Night
Friday, February 3 | 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
H-F Sports Complex
18211 Aberdeen Avenue
Contact the H-F Park District at (708) 957-0300

Chocolate Fest
Saturday, February 18 | 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
H-F Park District Auditorium
Contact the Village of Homewood at (708) 798-3000

President's Day
Monday, February 20, Village Offices Closed

Scan to view
the Village
Calendar



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 Council for the Arts
- 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

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Village Hall Board Room, 2020 Chestnut Road. Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays, as announced. The public is invited to all meetings and they may introduce appropriate items not listed on the agenda.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Richard A. Hofeld

VILLAGE CLERK
Gayle Campbell

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Richard A. Hofeld
Village President

Holiday Lights is our newest event, just a few years old, and is conducted by the Homewood Economic Development Commission and the Downtown Homewood Business Association. In years past, Santa was welcomed at

or take a ride on one of the Trolley buses that are available to transport you throughout the evening.

The A's R Us car club leads a parade through the downtown with their antique cars bedecked with holiday lights. The wind up

Homewood mug.

Ice sculpture also takes place at Independence Park (Hickory and Dixie), where it is fascinating to watch a huge block of ice transformed into statues. The Artist operates a chain-saw, with the

The holiday season lighted snowflakes are now on lampposts in our business areas and my "find the different snowflake" annual contest has begun. If you look closely at them, you will see that one snowflake is different from the rest. Come to Village Hall on a Saturday, 9:00 AM 'til noon, and tell me where that "Charlie Brown" snowflake is located and I'll give you a local business gift card.

Irwin Park, musical groups caroled, the Lions Club served hot chocolate, and the lights on the giant evergreen tree were lit. This still takes place, however, and then the Holiday Lights happening begins. You can walk through the downtown area

on Hickory, just West of Dixie Highway, where these beautifully restored vintage automobiles can be viewed up close. Nearby members of the Economic Development Commission will be selling mulled wine in a special commemorative

skill of a surgeon, and after several minutes a thing of beauty is created. I am always amazed watching this, especially since my wife will not let me operate a chain-saw, having seen

President's Message
continued on page 4

THE EGG & I BREAKFAST • LUNCH CATERING

Get One Complimentary Entree

when a second entree of equal or greater value is purchased (up to \$4.00 value)

With purchase of 2 Beverages and this coupon. Dine In Only. Not valid with any other offer or discounts. Valid through 12/30/2011.

Get One Complimentary Entree

when a second entree of equal or greater value is purchased (up to \$4.00 value)

With purchase of 2 Beverages and this coupon. Dine In Only. Not valid with any other offer or discounts. Valid through 12/30/2011.

222 Dixie Highway, Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 754-0909 • (708) 754-0976

7164 W. 183rd Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 614-0909

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good food ... good place ... good people!

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Call for available dates & details. Must mention ad to receive discount.

One FREE Entrée

when a second entrée of equal or greater value is purchased. (up to \$4. value)

With purchase of 2 beverages and this coupon. Dine in only. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Valid through 12/30/2011.

One FREE Entrée

when a second entrée of equal or greater value is purchased. (up to \$4. value)

With purchase of 2 beverages and this coupon. Dine in only. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Valid through 12/30/2011.

18147 Harwood Avenue in Homewood
(708) 799-4700 • www.eatatgradys.com
M-TH: 10:30-10 pm; FRI-SAT: 10:30-11 pm; Closed Sunday

President's Message

continued from page 3

my past "adventures" with power tools!

Most of the businesses in the downtown host their own in-store Holiday Lights activities. These range from wine and cheese tasting, to kids being able to decorate their own cookies at the local bakery. This year we will have several new stores participating that opened in 2011. These include Global Fusion with their beautifully appointed home décor items at the corner of Ridge and Dixie, and several new eateries on Ridge Road between Martin and Harwood. Tokyo Steakhouse with its Japanese Habachi style of steak, chicken, or shrimp offers both good food and a new experience of having it cooked in front of you, with the chef putting on an entertaining show. Twisted Q

Barbecue and Bakery has great choices of southern barbeque and wonderful side dishes. The bakery is really the "twist" and where else can you get good barbecue and finish off your meal with a dessert created by the co-owner's wife, a graduate pastry chef. And to complete the new dining experience, next door is the Good Life Café, with home healthy food: salad, soups, and the like.

In addition to the new business, the "Heart of Homewood" businesses really outdo themselves for this event. The beautifully appointed and festive stores of Homewood Florists, Suzie's Hallmark Shop, Art 4 Soul, Climb On, Blackberry Harvest Dollhouse Shop, Zone Comics, Melody Mart, Nathalie's Interiors, the Skate Shop, FOG Cosmetics,

Van Sipma Jewelers, and Bella Vita Home Accents and others, all offer great choices for holiday shopping. And if you can't decide which special gift you should purchase, you can always "play it safe" as I do, and buy a gift certificate.

During your shopping tour you will be entertained by local choral groups singing Holiday music and, my favorite, listening to a Doo Wop group harmonizing to those tunes.

After the Holiday Lights festivities, hopefully the weather will remain cold and the ice sculptures will melt slowly, so we can enjoy them for weeks to come.

The Homewood Holiday events conclude with your Family New Years Eve celebration beginning at 11:00 AM, Saturday, December 31. This year's

entertainment includes the fabulous Chicago Boyz Acrobatic team. The New Year countdown then begins at 11:59 AM and the gala balloon-drop takes place at noon. Light snacks will be served and the entire family can celebrate New Year's Eve twelve hours prior to the actual event. In this way the younger kids have had their party and adults can have theirs at midnight!

Enjoy our Holiday Lights, the Holiday season, and whenever possible shop at Homewood businesses throughout the town. It is important to their success, and the Village's as well.

My best to you and your family for a happy and healthy new year.

Looked for a house. Found a whole neighborhood in Homewood.



Become a Neighborhood Explorer at bairdwarner.com
This should be fun.



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Monday-Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 12pm - 5pm



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BUSINESS NETWORK



New Business Directory – Free Listing!

The Economic Development Committee has created an online directory for all Homewood businesses to provide an easy reference guide to encourage shopping opportunities for local businesses and services.

The directory is at homesweethomewood.com and has its very own icon located at the footer of the homepage. Finding a business is easy, following three simple steps:

1. Choose Business Directory from the Category dropdown list
2. Choose up to two sub-categories (optional)
3. Click Search

If your business is not listed in the directory, please contact the Community Development Department and request the Business Directory Survey so you



can submit your information.

Building a sustainable community where residents and businesses support each other will strengthen our economy and increase the availability of products and services that improve the quality of life in Homewood. Together we will continue to protect the Village that we are all so proud of and create a great place where we can work, play, live, and learn.

Shop Home Sweet Homewood

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

- **A+ Million Keys Investment & Realty**
920 W. 175th, Suite 6
- **Ashley's Quality Care**
18430 Governors Highway
- **Dollar Tree**
17510 Halsted, Suite B
- **Global Fusion**
1961 Ridge Road
- **Homewood Citgo**
2124 W. 183rd
- **Homewood Mart**
3015 W. 183rd
- **Primerica**
2024 Hickory, Suite 300

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.



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QUANTITY
VALUE
Since 1959**

*Tell 'em
Joe
sent me*

18162 Harwood Avenue, Homewood, IL
(708) 798-8050

www.aureliospizza.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

December

CELEBRATION OF SAINT NICHOLAS

Friday, December 2
6:00 PM
Parish of St. Joseph
17951 Dixie Highway
(708) 798-0622



Join the St. Joseph Children's Choir as they sing holiday songs at 5:45 PM and stay for the celebration of Saint Nicholas at 6:00 PM. Learn about the story of Saint Nicholas and the history of the candy cane. Following the celebration, a trolley will take you to Irwin Park for a tree lighting ceremony and Hickory Road Festivities.

FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 3
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
Irwin Community Center
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

Come join us for some holiday family fun! Your family will have an opportunity to create a magical gingerbread house together while enjoying hot chocolate, cookies, and festive holiday music. Want to know the best part? All supplies are provided. Limit 20. Instructor: Emily Finger. Ages: All. Fee: \$20R/\$30 NR per family. Code: 426211-01.

LIVE NATIVITY, WALK THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Sunday, December 4
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Homewood Church
18301 Governor's Highway
(708) 799-9360

Homewood Church will host its annual Live Nativity on Sunday, December 4 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Participants will walk through the Christmas Story and gather inside

for an old-fashioned Christmas party with carols, cookies, hot chocolate and a variety of crafts to take home or make as gifts. The event is free.

SANTA'S CALLING

Monday, December 5
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

Delight your child with a personal call from Santa or Mrs. Claus! Santa's elves will deliver the applications to the North Pole so Santa and Mrs. Claus have time to organize the lists! Applications are available at the Irwin Community Center, Goldberg Center and at hfparks.com. Application deadline is Thursday, December 1. Due to his busy schedule, Santa can only call H-F residents, ages 3-10. Code: 420725-02.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 10
Session 1: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Session 2: 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM
Irwin Community Center
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

Music, merriment and wishes for holiday toys will be found at this event for ages 6 and under and their parents. Bring your children to visit with Santa and enjoy doughnuts, milk and orange juice. Get in the spirit with songs, face painting and a special gift from Santa. Digital pictures with Santa included in your fee. Note: both adults and children must register for this event. Max: 100/session. Fee: \$6 R/\$9 NR (ages 6 months and under free).



COMMUNITY-WIDE LIGHTING EFFORT

Friday, December 16
5:00 PM
Throughout Homewood and Flossmoor
Coordinated by the Infant Welfare Flossmoor Juniors

Light Up the Night... Light Up a Child's Life

Infant Welfare Flossmoor Juniors are sponsoring a luminaria sale at the Homewood Tree Lighting on Friday, December 2 and Flossmoor's Winterfest on Saturday, December 3. Select downtown retail shops, including Art 4 Soul, will also be selling kits through the month of December. Residents and businesses are encouraged to support the cause and join in a community-wide effort in lighting luminaria throughout the streets of Homewood and Flossmoor the night of Friday, December 16, starting at 5:00 PM. In addition to showing community pride and spirit, your participation will help light up a child's life. Proceeds from this event benefit the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, which provides quality, community-based healthcare to underinsured and uninsured women, infants, and children who would otherwise lack access to basic medical services. For information, contact Linda Van Kley at ljvan1214@sbcglobal.net.



MOVIE MAGIC: THE POLAR EXPRESS

Saturday, December 17
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
H-F Park District Auditorium
2010 Chestnut Road
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

All aboard for a magical evening full of holiday merriment! Bring the family out for a special showing of the modern classic *The Polar Express*. Popcorn and hot chocolate will be available for purchase. Sit in our stadium seats or bring your own blankets and chairs and stretch out on the gymnasium floor. Fee: \$1 per person admission. 50¢ popcorn/hot chocolate. Code: 420725-03.

SKATE WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 18
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
H-F Ice Arena
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

Take a spin around the H-F Ice Arena with Santa Claus! This event features exhibitions by our Icette Synchronized Skating teams. Refreshments will be provided. Admission: \$6. Skate rental: \$4.

NEW YEARS EVE DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 31
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
H-F Park District Auditorium
2010 Chestnut Road
Sponsored by the Homewood Community Relations Commission and COMCAST

The world may tune in to Time Square (NYC) at midnight, but in Homewood, families gather



together for a countdown and balloon drop – at the stroke of noon – on Saturday, December 31. Join the Community Relations Commission for a family celebration. Doors open at 10:30 AM for a vibrant performance from the Chicago Boyz Acrobatics Team. Watch their amazing acrobatic stunts and thundering tumbling routines. They have performed at NBA and college halftime shows, professional circuses, festivals, theme parks, and schools throughout the country. “They are definitely one of the best halftime acts that I bring in each year and probably the best in the NBA.” Jeff Wolschlaeger, Game Operations, NBA Chicago Bulls. Don't be late! Seating is limited.

winter activities and games, plus treat yourself to warm soups and specials at Northwoods Restaurant! Your couch will thank you!
 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Bonfire, Cross-Country Skiing, Winter Bingo, Headless Snowman Pictures and Food Specials. 11:45 AM – Dog Musher demonstration with the running of the dogs (snow permitting). 12:30 PM – Pictures with a musher dog and Human Musher pull. 1:45 PM – Dog Musher demonstration with the running of the dogs (snow permitting). 2:30 PM – Snowball accuracy throw/parents tree toss contest.

2012. Be the first on your block to fill your calendar with spring and summer events from the H-F Park District!



CALLING ALL CHOCOHOLICS!

Annual Chocolate Fest
 Saturday, February 18
 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 H-F Park District Auditorium
 2010 Chestnut Road
Sponsored by the Homewood Community Relations Commission

Sample scrumptious chocolate creations from renowned chocolatiers as they offer the latest and most decadent recipes. The Community Relations Commission will host its annual bake-off contest. This year, the open tasting will benefit a local not-for-profit. Bake-off applications will be available at Village Hall or online in January. Enjoy live music and entertainment, demonstrations from professional dessert chefs, and delicious activities for the entire family.

January

CELEBRATION OF WINTER
 Saturday, January 7
 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 Coyote Run Golf Course
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

Getting cabin fever? Come out of the house for a fun Saturday in the snow with your community! Enjoy

NATIONAL POPCORN DAY
 Thursday, January 19
 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 HFPD Facilities
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

It's National Popcorn Day! Visit us at any of our facilities and receive a freshly popped cup of corn. Your cup will have important event dates for

February

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE
 Friday, February 3
 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM
 H-F Sports Complex
Sponsored by Homewood Flossmoor Park District

It is time to make that special date with your little girl(s)! Daddy Daughter Date Night is a favorite for both dads and daughters. The event is packed with dancing, pictures, corsages, crafts, snacks and a keepsake to take home. Digital pictures will be available at hfparks.com following the dance. Note: If you have daughters that are different ages, they can come to the same dance time. Max: 500/session. Fee: \$15 R/\$23 NR.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!

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Bella Vita
 HOME ACCENTS

Happy Holidays from Pam and Brenda!

Friday, Nov 25
 Breakfast with the Bella Vita Girls
 Saturday, Nov 26
 Small Business Saturday w/ American Express
 Saturday, Dec 3
 Holiday Soiree – Wine Tasting with Balagio's
 Saturday, Dec 10
 DHBA Holiday Cookie Walk

Open Sundays from 11/27 – 12/18
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 bellavitahomeaccents.com

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- Half-Day & All-Day Pre-School
- Half-Day & All-Day Kindergarten
- Summer Camp

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708.206.0350

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- Snow Babies • Precious Moments
- Yankee Candles • Willow Tree Angels
- Gifts for All Occasions.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Keep the Wreath Red

From early December until January 1 a red lighted wreath will hang on the Homewood Fire Department station. If you see that any of the lights have been replaced with a white light that means there has been a residential holiday fire.

The fire department's goal is to keep the wreath red and all of our residents safe this holiday season. Please do your part and be conscientious about the decorations in and around your home. Together we can keep the wreath red.



The Fire Department held their annual Open House in October for residents to meet firefighters and learn about fire prevention.



Holiday Fires Safety

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing holiday tradition. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of a fire. Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and Christmas trees from creating a tragedy.

Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Be sure your smoke detector has been checked and new batteries installed. Help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles,

lighters or matches start tree fires. A well-watered tree will minimize the problem. Be sure to check and water your tree daily while it is inside your home

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and has probably dried out; this could be a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame, or sparks.

Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

The Village of Homewood is a proud Partner in the annual Community Christmas Tree Recycling Program. This free event is open to anyone who would like to donate. Drop-off dates are scheduled for Saturdays, January 7 and 14, 2012 from 9:00 AM to

12:00 PM at Irons Oaks.

Trees are mulched and used on the paths and trails at Irons Oaks.

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

Preventing Home Heating Fires

The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) and deaths (46%) is heating equipment placed too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding (Source: NFPA). The Homewood Fire Department wants you to know that many heating fires can be prevented by following basic safety tips when dealing with any heating equipment:

- Keep or maintain a 3 foot clearance between all heating

equipment and anything that can burn.

- Inspect and maintain heating equipment regularly for safety.
- Be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician, according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes. Or, make sure a qualified technician checks to see the unit has been properly installed.
- When buying a new, portable space heater, make sure it has the label showing it is

listed by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room and before going to bed.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn - including furniture, blankets, curtains, and paper products.
- Choose space heaters that turn off automatically if they tip over.
- Never use a space heater to dry clothing.

- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms monthly. Change your smoke alarm battery twice a year.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Don't be Taken at the Holidays *By Officer Curt Wiest*

A couple of things to keep in mind when shopping for the holidays: more scams. These two were forwarded to me by Anita Cochran, a very diligent senior resident who helps out the Police Department in many ways.

Visa/Mastercard Fraud *(confirmed through snopes.com)*

This was received from Royal Bank out of southern Alberta. This one is pretty slick since the scammers provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want. Note: the caller does not ask for your card number, they already have it.

The person calling says, "This is (John), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at Visa. My badge number is 12345. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern and I'm calling to verify. Did you purchase an anti-telemarketing device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say no, the caller continues, "Then we will be issuing a credit to you account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will

be sent to (gives you, your address), is that correct?"

When you answer, yes, the caller continues, "I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1-800 number listed on the back of your card and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this control number." The caller gives you a six digit number. "Do you need me to read you the number again?"

Ok, here is how the scam actually works:

The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card." He will ask you to turn your card over and look for some numbers. He is looking for the three number security code and he will ask you to read it to him. After you tell the caller the three numbers, he will say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?"

After you say no, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do." The caller then hangs up. You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number.

When the victim calls Visa, the "real" Visa security department will

state that the call was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to your credit card.

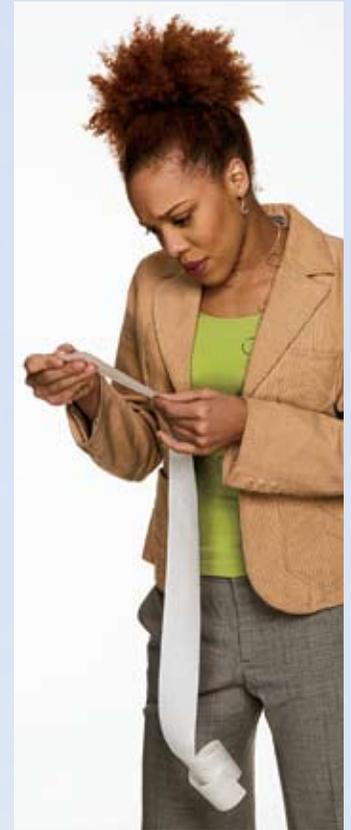
What the scammers want is the three digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call Visa or MasterCard directly for verification of their conversation.

Check your Receipts for Cash Back

Before you leave the cashier, check your receipt. This particular incident occurred at a Wal-Mart, but it can happen anywhere.

A customer bought a \$150 worth of merchandise and noticed her receipt registered an additional \$40 cash-back charge. The customer told the cashier that she didn't request cash-back and wanted it deleted. After the cashier stated that she couldn't delete the cash-back, the customer asked for a supervisor. The supervisor was unable to reverse the cash-back charge, so at the customer's request the entire transaction canceled and rescanned.

Before the customer left for the second time, she noticed the electronic pad before she signed it and it showed a cash-back of \$20. That is when the customer



told the cashier to delete it and she did. The cashier stated that the electronic pad must be defective. The cashier knew it wasn't defective.

Be cautious and WATCH what the cashier is doing. BE DILIGENT!! Imagine how much the cashier is pocketing every time this happens and you don't even realize it.

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Holiday Lights in Homewood

The Evening of Friday, December 2
6:30 PM to 9:00 PM | Downtown Homewood

Irwin Park (Ridge and Gottschalk) | Independence Park (Hickory and Dixie Highway)

Sponsored by the Village of Homewood, Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Homewood-Flossmoor Lions Club, Homewood Fire Department, and members of the Downtown Homewood Business Association.

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Holiday Lights has become a treasured event in Homewood, capturing the joy, excitement, and traditions of the season in just one memorable evening.

Parents rush home Friday evening to bundle up and head to Irwin Park to meet up with neighbors and Santa, who flips the switch at 7:00 PM to light the giant evergreen at the annual tree lighting ceremony hosted by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.

Once Irwin Park is aglow, brightly lit and festively decorated antique cars parade to the festivities on Hickory Road, just two block west of Irwin Park.

Hickory Road transforms into Homewood's very own Christkindlmarket with tree sales, delicious desserts, live reindeer, costumed carolers, hot cider and mulled wine, luminaries, and an exciting ice sculpting demonstration by Nadeau's Ice Sculptures – Chicago's premier ice carving company (demos start at 7:30 PM).

It's downtown Homewood's busiest time, as residents travel from shop to shop on musical trolleys. Riders hop on and hop off as merchants are open late,

hosting children's holiday craft activities, serving up holiday hors d'oeuvres and offering generous discounts on unique gifts you won't find in any mall – just look for the Open Flag. Trolleys will stop at all downtown public parking lots, including St. Joseph's Church, Irwin Park, and Hickory Road. Trolley rides are free.

About Hickory Market Vendors

Hickory Market Vendors are local not-for-profits who serve the community and beyond with free services and thousands of hours of volunteer time and care. Support your neighbors who spread good cheer!

The Homewood Rotary Club is one of 33,334 clubs worldwide dedicated to community service, world peace, and international understanding. They will be selling fresh and rich caramel apples.

Students from Homewood-Flossmoor High School will be selling cinnamon roasted almonds, popcorn, and hand warmers in order to raise funds for the Homewood-Flossmoor Symphony Orchestra Tour to Brazil.

The Homewood Parent Music Association will be selling chocolate to raise money for the outstanding music program in District 153.

Adding to the full experience

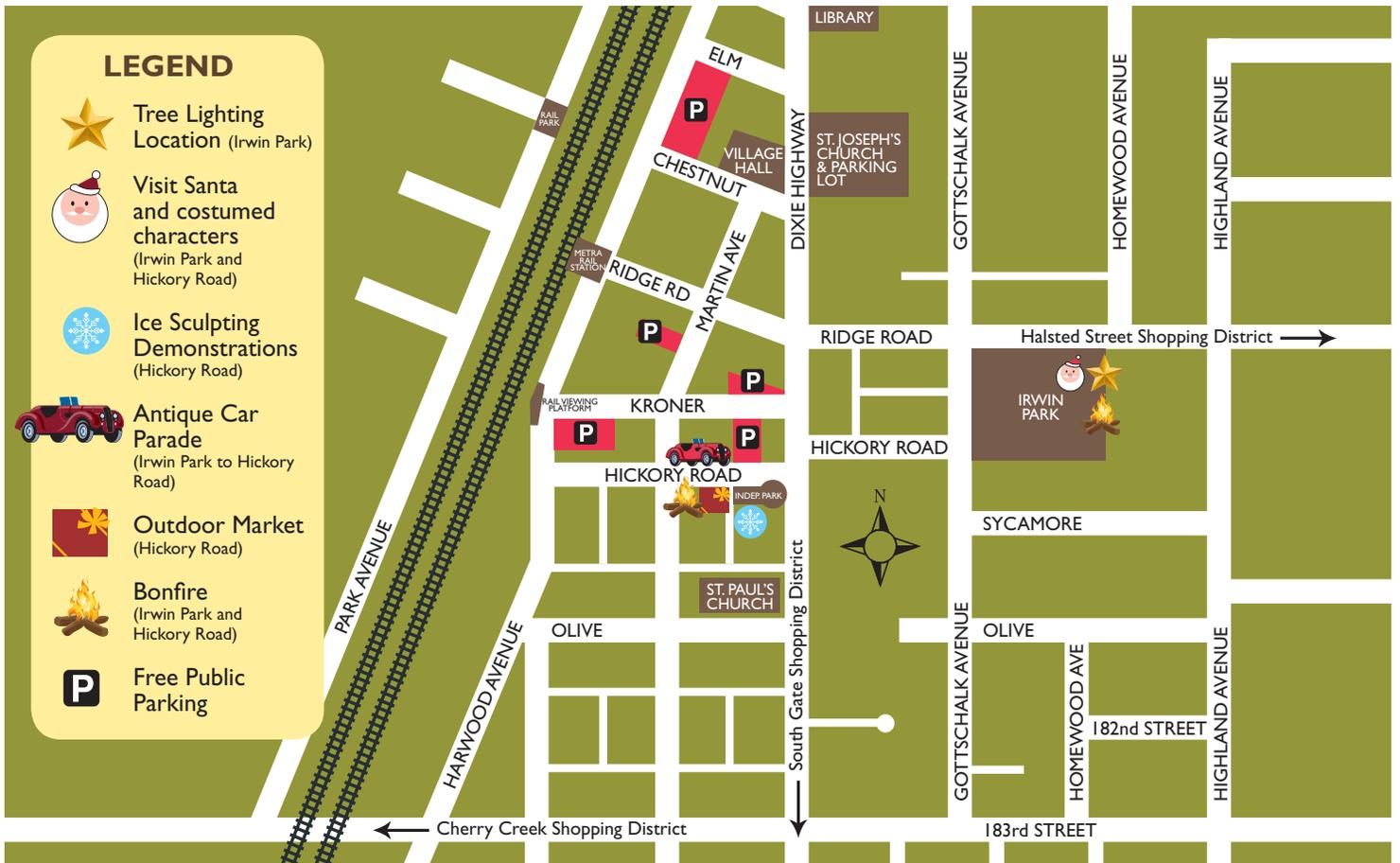
of the evening, Foundation 153 will sell premium-grade Fraser Firs from Michigan with easy pick-up and loading assistance. Sales will begin as early as 3:00 PM. The Foundation's mission is to enrich students and teachers through opportunity, development, and support and meet the challenges of funding educational experiences beyond the school district's reach.

Infant Welfare Flossmoor Juniors will sell luminaria kits – festive accents to brighten outdoor spaces, walkways, and porches during the holiday season. Each kit will be sold for \$6.00 (contains bags and candles for five luminarias). Every purchase helps Infant Welfare Society of Chicago bring community-based healthcare to underinsured and uninsured children and women who lack access to basic medical services. Luminaries are for the annual H-F community lighting event on Friday, December 16. Read more on page 6.

Our Shops, Our Town! Keep Your Money Close to Home(wood!)

On this evening and throughout the holiday season, please consider looking for that special gift from a Homewood business first. You'd be surprised at the offerings and even more





surprised how spending your dollars in town supports future developments, public services, and school programs. Building a sustainable community where residents and businesses support each other will strengthen our economy and increase the availability of products and services that improve the quality of life in Homewood.

The following businesses will be open late on Friday evening, during Holiday Lights. Stop in for free craft activities, holiday hors d'oeuvres and generous discounts:

- Art 4 Soul
- Bella Vita Home Accents
- Girlfriends
- Global Fusion
- Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce

- Homewood Florist
- Kirschner Vision Group
- Nail Savvy
- Nathalie's Interiors and Gallery
- Salon J
- Spaah's Skincare & Bodyworx
- Suzie's Hallmark
- The Village Door

For a list of Homewood businesses, go online to

homesweethomewood.com, and click on the Business Directory icon.

Holiday Souvenir Mug

Last year, a Holiday Lights souvenir mug was available for purchase and for sipping mulled wine, sold by the Downtown Homewood Business Association. This year, a new mug will be available, which features Homewood's past.

Because the mugs were so popular, and we anticipate sales this year will again indicate their appeal, we will be holding an on-going contest for Homewood residents to submit pictures of holidays spent in Homewood past. If you have a family picture, dated at least 1970 or earlier send to rcjones@homesweethomewood.com. The winner will get their picture on the 2012 Holiday Lights souvenir mug.



Santa greets a crowd at Ridge Road and Harwood Avenue. Each December residents would gather at the end of Ridge Road for the opening of the Christmas Season in town. Carolers from village churches and organizations sang there night after night through Christmas Eve and Santa would even make an appearance. Image courtesy of the Homewood Historical Society.

Celebration of St. Nicholas

Join the St. Joseph Children's Choir as they sing holiday songs at 5:45 PM and stay for the celebration of Saint Nicholas at 6:00 PM. Learn about the story of Saint Nicholas and the history of the candy cane. Following the celebration, a trolley will take you to Irwin Park for a tree lighting ceremony and Hickory Road Festivities. For information, contact the Parish of St. Joseph at (708) 798-0622. St. Joe's is located at 17951 Dixie Highway.

FINANCE & MANAGER'S OFFICE NEWS

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

Meet Our New Village Manager



Ralph DeWitt was sworn in as the new Village Manager in November. DeWitt replaces Mark Franz who left in May to serve as Village Manager in Glen Ellyn, IL.

DeWitt was Chief of the Investigations Bureau for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, but he is no stranger to working for the Village. He previously served two terms as Trustee with the Homewood Village Board (2001 to 2009). DeWitt has been a resident

of Homewood for more than 14 years, along with his wife, Cynthia, and daughter Lauren.

In addition to his service as Trustee on the Village Board, DeWitt has volunteered as a member of the Homewood Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, Homewood 911 Emergency Board, and Homewood Veterans Committee. He is a life member of the VFW, having served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

DeWitt received his Masters of Public Administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago, IL) and during his 20 year tenure with the Investigations Bureau, DeWitt has supervised several public integrity investigations, which

resulted in convictions of high-level government and public officials. He oversaw the creation of the State's Attorney's Narcotics Strike Force, and reorganized the Investigations Bureau, creating an all-sworn 180 member, full-service investigations unit. As Chief, DeWitt directs the day to day operation, supervising county-wide practices and ensuring that all county and State's Attorney's policies are adhered to. He is directly responsible for all staffing and personnel related issues for the Investigations Bureau.

"I have worked alongside Ralph and his integrity, leadership skills, and credentials make him an outstanding Village Manager for Homewood," says Village President Richard Hofeld.

Leaving for Winter?

If you expect to be away from your home through next April you may submit a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Village Hall so that we can mail your vehicle sticker applications to you. Please be sure to include your Homewood address with your request.

Vehicle sticker applications are not forwarded by the Post Office. For those residents who have given the post office a temporary address during the winter/spring months, please contact Sandy Ruhlander at (708) 206-3368 for forwarding instructions. Applications returned by the Post Office marked "Temporarily Away" will be held at Village Hall if a forwarding envelope was not submitted. For more information, please contact Sandy Ruhlander at (708) 206-3368.



Village Web Site Updated

If you've visited the Village web site, homesweethomewood.com, you'll notice a new design and user-friendly navigation. Every quarter, the Manager's Office reviews the site to make sure online services are easy to access and information about programs, projects, and events is easy to find.



Scan to access the Village Web site

e-Newswire and Facebook Communities

The e-Newswire Community continues to grow. Residents seeking information about weekend events, construction projects, and job openings have signed up for the bi-weekly newsletter. If you

are not yet a member, sign up today! Visit the Village Web site (homesweethomewood.com). Also, join the Village of Homewood's Fan Page on Facebook; search Village of Homewood and join.

March 20, 2012 Presidential Primary Key Dates

- 2/9/2012** First day absentee ballot applications are accepted by Cook County Clerk's Office
- 2/12/2012** Last day to register to vote for the March 20, 2012 Presidential Primary
- 2/22/2012** First day of grace period registration and voting
- 2/27/2012** First day of Early Voting at designated locations chosen by Cook County Clerk's Office
- 3/13/2012** Last day of grace period registration and voting at designated locations.
- 3/15/2012** Last day of Early Voting
Last day to request a mail-in absentee ballot, including military and overseas voters
- 3/16/2012** In-person absentee voting begins at the Clerk's downtown Chicago office and five suburban courthouse mini-centers
- 3/19/2012** Last day voted mail-in absentee ballots can be postmarked for acceptance by the Clerk's office
Last day of in-person absentee voting at the Clerk's downtown Chicago office and five suburban courthouse mini-centers
- 3/30/2012** Election Day

Going to Chicago for the day?

The Village Hall parking lot at Chestnut Road and Harwood Avenue may have one to five parking spaces available for rent on any given day. The Village also offers two parking spaces for seniors who periodically need to travel to Chicago. Daily rental is \$2 and spaces are available for Homewood residents only.

Monthly Parking

For those working Downtown and needing a place to park their car – look no further! Spaces are now available for monthly parking in the Village Hall Parking Lot. The monthly fee for Homewood residents is \$35, with a non-resident fee of \$50. Please contact Sandy Ruhlander at (708) 206-3368 for more information.



Homewood's annual Fall Fest and Chili Cook-Off

The Community Relations Commission held its annual Fall Fest and Chili Cook-Off in September. The annual event fell on a perfect autumn day in downtown Homewood, bringing residents together both young and old alike, to further strengthen Homewood's close-knit way of life.

Family-friendly activities included pony rides, pumpkin painting, a petting zoo, live music, horse-drawn wagon rides, bean bag tournament, face painting, an outdoor movie, bonfire, and the spirited Chili Cook-Off Contest, which raised over \$1,134.31 for the Homewood Police Association.

2010 Top Chili Chefs: Beth Follmer of Arbor Eyecare (First), Terrence Boone of CN Railroad (Second), and Debra Hunt and Denise Jones of Hope Community Services (Third).

Thanks to all our Cook-Off participants: Stevent Dziaik (INX International), Chuck Mokijewski (Homewood Bunco Babes), Lynn Van Heel and Larry VanHeel (South Suburban Animal Society), Homewood Village Board Trustee Lisa Purcell (Homewood Senior Advisory Committee), Hank Baldwin and Dave Staehlin (Friends of the H-F Band Parents Assoc.), Jim Hughs (South Sportmen Club), Dave Huffman, Brian Dunican, and Dave Mc Grath (Homewood Baseball/Softball), Rhonda Hill (RDGS, Inc.), Linda McDonough (Homewood Veterans Committee), Marnel Scott (Homewood Beautification Committee), and Alex Bosch and Drew Senesac (Foundation 153).

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Homewood-Flossmoor High School Kids in the Community

Beyond taking classes, participating on sports teams, and working part-time jobs, several Homewood-Flossmoor High School students also get involved in the greater H-F community through volunteering.

For the past two summers, Grant Anderson of Homewood has donated 22 hours of his time at the James Hart Boys' Basketball Summer Camp in the James Hart Gym. He helped kids in Grades 5-8 work on basics such as shooting, layups, and dribbling.

"I've always really liked basketball and wanted to pass on my knowledge to guys who are in the same position I was in a few years ago," says Anderson, a 6'3.5" Junior, who has played club ball since 8th Grade and hopes to make H-F's varsity team this winter.

"I do like helping kids develop their skills and learn ahead of time what to expect in high school," he said. "The kids seem smaller than I remember!"

While Anderson's volunteering was optional, other H-F High School students who participate in another sport – football – were required to complete 10 hours of community service this year. The hours needed to be logged before the Sophomore and Varsity teams' Red/White scrimmage games in August.

"The motivation in requiring volunteerism by the players is to support the community that supports us," explains Tom Cicero, assistant varsity coach.

Some players read to preschoolers, some worked on projects through their churches, some participated in the Cancer Support Center's Walk of Hope in October and others helped beautify the community through landscaping projects.

Student clubs and organizations – including Friends of Rachel, DECA, and National Honor Society – complete a variety of



VAST staff and students package care boxes for overseas military service personnel in September.

service projects throughout the school year. For the past two years these groups have been helping build houses in the South Suburbs through Habitat for Humanity. Also, each spring Friends of Rachel hosts a red-carpet party for students from Glenwood School for Boys and Girls, and Ribbons on the Move holds a book drive for children in Kenya. Most recently this fall, students in the school's VAST (Vocational Achievement for Smooth Transition) program shipped care packages to service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The high school program



HF students volunteer at Cancer Support Center pumpkin patch.

Operation Snowball – a year-long prevention program that focuses on helping healthy students stay healthy – has rolled into a student volunteer program at the junior high (Operation Snowflake) and elementary school (Operation Snowflurry) levels. High school students volunteer at day-long events for younger students in the H-F community, promoting healthy habits and positive attitudes.

For more information on the high school or to suggest service projects for H-F student organizations, please call (708) 799-3000 or visit hfhighschool.org.

New Holiday Tradition Continues

Once again the Village of Homewood is a proud partner in the 2nd Annual Community Christmas Tree Recycling Program. This free event is open to anyone who would like to donate. Drop-off dates are scheduled for Saturday, January 7 and 14, 2012 from 9:00 AM to noon at Irons Oaks. Trees are mulched and used on the paths and trails at Irons Oaks. New this year is a Christmas Tree Light recycling program. Old or broken light strings and extension cords will be separated and repurposed. Goodie bags are provided for all donors. Hope to see you there! For more information or to help please call (312) 804-0496.



Homewood Residents Madeline Moxley and her Dad Mark collected 33 trees during the first event.



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BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS 2011

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

LANDMARK AWARDS

The Avery Family
18327 California Avenue



2732 Debra Lane

The Harmon Family
3216 186th Street



18125 Los Angeles Court



2226 Maple Road



17928 Highland Avenue

The Turner Family
2732 Debra Lane



17901 Gottschalk Avenue

The Kerr Family
18125 Los Angeles Court



1847 Sycamore Road



1255 Hickory Road



1936 187th Street

The Galen Family
3100 Hickory Road

The Balog Family
17956 Sacramento Avenue

The Gossett Family
17846 Howe Avenue

The Sowacke Family
2226 Maple Road

The Daw Family
17729 Gladville Avenue

The Wood Family
17928 Highland Avenue



1654 Evergreen Road



18152 Rockwell Avenue



18426 Perth Avenue



1944 Evergreen Road

The Savage Family
17901 Gottschalk Avenue



3055 Elliot Lane



18219 Aida Court



2158 Cedar Road



1847 Olive Road

The Wright Family
1847 Sycamore Road

The Sedgwick-Mascarello Family
18029 Armitage Court

The Barr Family
1459 Olive Road

The Gombash Family
1255 Hickory Road

The O'Leary Family
17935 LaHaigh Road

The Davis Family
1936 187th Street



17851 Gottschalk Avenue



18141 Reigel Road



1605 187th Street



1819 Evergreen Road

The Finnerty Family
18623 Ashland Avenue

The Mizgalski Family
1654 Evergreen Road

The Nettle Family
18733 Highland Avenue



1408 186th Place



1344 Hillview Road



1906 Terrace Road



18405 Morris Avenue

The Clark Family
1329 Jamie Lane

The Montgomery Family
19255 Riegel Road

The Ahern Family
18120 Perth Avenue

The Dudley Family
18152 Rockwell Avenue

The Larocca Family
18426 Perth Avenue

The Williams Family
1944 Evergreen Road

The Shroyer Family
1753 Terrace Road

RESIDENTIAL AWARDS

The Reid Family
3055 Elliot Lane

The Ervin Family
3304 186th Street

The Beeks Family
17800 Larkspur Lane

The Stahr Family
18020 Governors Highway

The Rhodes Family
18219 Aida Court

The Newell Family
2708 Hollydale Drive

The Palmers Family
17950 Sacramento Avenue

Department of Community Development

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Building / Code Enforcement - 206-3858

Department of Public Works

17755 South Ashland Avenue
206-3470

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The Rauls Family 17950 Park Ave	The Hutton Family 1301 Olive Road	The Newgren Family 1723 Evergreen Road	Homewood Resident 18555 Poplar Avenue	The Jones Family 18606 Martin Avenue
The Stevens Family 17911 Riedle Court	The Ehlers Family 18141 Loomis Avenue	The Herkert Family 1819 Evergreen Road	The Jackson Family 19126 Loomis Avenue	The Popa Family 18340 Martin Avenue
The Eilers-Lindstrom Family 2451 Hawthorne Road	The Minkalis Family 18141 Reigel Road	The Saak Family 18332 Marshfield Avenue	The Griffith Family 18840 Center Avenue	The Hamilton Family 1906 Terrace Road
The Evans Family 17661 How Avenue	The Keene Family 1654 Idlewild Lane	The O'Donnell Family 1408 186th Place	The Banovich Family 19249 Riegel Road	The Vorbau Family 18405 Morris Avenue
The Ragonese Family 1635 Olive Road	The O'Connor Family 18642 Page Avenue	The Lewandowski Family 1344 Hillview Road	The Janssen Family 19253 Riegel Road	The Subhash Tangri Family 1246 Hillview Road
The Jones Family 1856 Sycamore Road	The Haines Family 18445 Gottschalk Avenue	The Roberts Family 1401 Hillview Road	The Agrigento Family 18465 Cowing Court	
The Noe Family 1847 Olive Road	The Levinson Family 1605 187th Street	The Ward Family 18512 Pierce Terrace	The Sievers Family 18502 Dixie Highway	

BUSINESS AWARDS

- Dunnings Market
- Starbucks
- Panera Bread Company
- Balagio Ristorante
- Ravisloe Country Club
- St. Joseph's Parish
- Ryan Funeral Home
- Homewood Florist
- Comcast
- 900 Maple, LLC
- Ridgeview Condos
- Jewel Plaza
- Menards
- Target
- Lighting Distributors, Inc.
- Accurate Dispersions
- Manor Care
- JoAnn Fabrics
- Good Speed Cycle
- Cilantro Cocina Mexicana
- Mission Optical
- Great Lakes Bank
- Cherry Creek Shopping Center
- Arbor Eye Care
- Skip's Goodyear
- McDonalds Restaurant
- Master Television
- Dr. Ralph Kruse
- Barbara Brown
- Allstate Insurance
- Walt's Food Center
- Pete's Auto Repair
- William Lau
- Pearson's Bakery
- The Art Corner
- Tew's Funeral Home
- St. Paul Community Church
- Savoia's T'go
- Tin Ceiling
- Grady's Grille
- Just Between Trends
- Cancer Support Center
- Homewood Library
- Asian Harbor
- Art Glass & More
- Looks Hair Salon
- Canadian National
- Homewood Disposal
- INX International
- 930 175th Street
- Carl Buddig & Company
- KFC
- Applebee's
- OfficeMax Plaza
- Home Depot
- Best Buy Plaza
- Harris Bank
- White Castle
- Culver's
- Temple B'nai Yehuda
- Beth Shalom

Beautification Committee

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Marnel Scott

Village Board Liaison,
Jay Heiferman

Program Coordinator
Lisa Syren

Members
Arla Blocker
Kimberlyn Davis
Lisa DeVries
Annie McLaughlin
Vicki Seaton
Pam Van Niel
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HOMWOOD THROUGH THE YEARS

The Little White Church *By Jim Wright, Homewood Historical Society*

For most Homewood residents today, the start of the holiday season begins with the tree lighting ceremony and a parade of antique vehicles and fire engines ushering Santa Claus to his place of honor in Irwin Park the first Friday of each December. Many older Homewood residents, however, remember when the start of the Christmas Season began at the base of a Little White Church, which was erected at a busy intersection in town to remind passersby of the true meaning of the season.

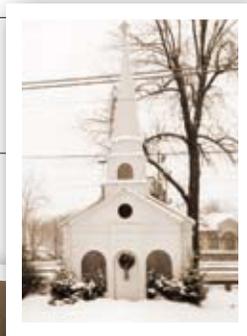
The concept of the Little White Church was attributed to Arthur F. "Pops" Senior, a long-time Homewood resident and community volunteer according to a history of the church published in 1955 by the Homewood-Flossmoor Lions Club and written by Selma Lentz Morrison.

As the story is told, Senior was away on business in New York one July and, after a long day of meetings, grew weary of the city and yearned to be back in Homewood. Standing on Wall Street waiting for a taxi, he looked north and caught sight of the spire of Old Trinity Church silhouetted against the sky at the end of a "canyon" of skyscrapers. Senior was inspired by the sight

and thought again of Homewood and a somewhat similar scene. He thought of Ridge Road looking west towards the railroad tracks, with buildings on both sides and how the street abruptly ended at the tracks. He thought of how a small church at the end of this street would have a powerful impact on Homewoodians, just as Old Trinity had on him.

Upon his return to Homewood he set about to make this idea a reality. He convinced friends, neighbors, businessmen and village officials to join in his dream and they did with enthusiasm. By December of that year -1940 - a Little White Church stood solidly at the west end of Ridge Road adjacent to the railroad tracks. The church windows were covered with imitation stained glass and were lit by amber bulbs to provide a pleasing glow at night. Speakers installed on the interior of the church ensured that organ recordings of Christmas carols played inside sounded as though they truly originated from within the building.

Each December the church was set up at the end of Ridge Road and was the scene of ceremonies heralding the opening of the Christmas Season in town. Carolers



from village churches and organizations sang there night after night through Christmas Eve and Santa would even make an appearance. Day after day during the holiday season, the quaint structure and the carols coming from within cheered commuters and shoppers as they passed by.

In addition to the church, for many years Christmas trees were placed on both sides of Ridge Road from the post office west to the railroad tracks and on Dixie Highway, one block north and south of Ridge Road. The trees were trimmed and lighted by village merchants and they added another special touch to each season. This "lighted cross" was often visible to pilots flying above Homewood.

With the exception of few years, the Little White Church was erected annually in Homewood and many individuals and organizations like the Homewood Businessmen's Association, American Legion,

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Jaycees and police and fire departments all helped to make it happen and kept the structure in good repair.

Although an exact date is not known, by the 1970's the original Little White Church was no longer a part of Homewood's holiday celebrations. Lately a newer version of the church has been placed at different locations downtown and, in recent years, it found a home on the lawn of St. Joseph Church and in the parking lot of Hoekstra Heating just north of the library.

This year the Little White Church will be a part of the Homewood Holiday Lights celebration and will be on display in front of the historic Gottschalk House at 18101 Martin Avenue.

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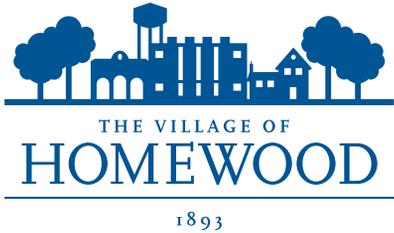
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