



Village of Homewood
Community Relations Commission
2016 Annual Report

Village Hall
Homewood, IL 60430

1. PURPOSE:

The Community Relations Commission of the Village of Homewood encourages and promotes community pride, involvement, and diversity in its efforts to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Homewood. The Community Relations Commission plans, volunteers, and represents the Village of Homewood at events. The Committee fosters growth and unity within the community. The Village has ten major events throughout the year and co-sponsors two events.

2. MEMBERSHIP: *List members, original appointment, term expiration*

| <i>MEMBERSHIP:</i> | <i>Original <u>Appointment</u></i> | <i>Term <u>Expires</u></i> | <i>CRC <u>Attendance</u></i> |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Phil Kosanovich, Chair | 06/12/07 | 08/31/16 | 3/10 |
| Heather Kerstan | 05/28/13 | 08/31/16 | 6/10 |
| Anthony Brown | 09/25/07 | 08/31/16 | 6/10 rolled off |
| Lauren Roman | 2/12/13 | 08/31/15 | 5/10 |
| Thomas Hamilton | 10/25/11 | 08/31/17 | 8/10 |
| Kathi Knight | 10/28/08 | 08/31/17 | 4/10 |
| Nancy Spaniak | 09/13/11 | 08/31/17 | 6/10 |
| Clifford Cressey | 4/10/12 | 08/31/16 | 5/10 moved away |
| Aredell Roundtree II | 09/24/12 | 08/31/18 | 7/10 |
| Shannon Olison | 08/25/15 | 08/31/18 | 6/10 |
| Carlyn Coleman | 04/14/15 | 08/31/18 | 6/10 |
| Robert Pascarella | 01/12/16 | 08/31/17 | 8/09 |
| Troy O'Quin | 08/25/16 | 08/31/16 | 3/04 |

Non-voting Commissioners:

Trustee Karen Washington, Village Board Liaison
Zach Thomas, Village Staff Liaison
Allisa Opyd, Village Staff Liaison

3. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

In the calendar year 2016, Community Relations Commission meetings were held in January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and November.

4. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Chocolate Fest | Saturday, February 20 | 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Commissioners hosted the Annual Chocolate Fest held at the H-F Park District Auditorium. The fest showcased local and national chocolatiers selling their popular chocolate confections. The event featured live demonstrations from professional dessert chefs from La Voute. 15 Chocolate vendors and three not-for-profits participated. Nine recipes were entered in the bake-off contest from local service groups and Village advisory groups. Two professionals participate in the competition. The beneficiary of the bake-off donations was the South Suburban Humane Society. This event brought event participants into the downtown shopping area. Approximately 1,200 attended the event.

The event received positive media coverage, information listed below, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau, Village communication channels: cable channel, website, social media, e-Newswire, and Village Key.

PRINT

Chicago Parent Included in Going Places issue and online:

<http://www.chicagoparent.com/resources/going-places/fairs--festivals/february/home-sweet-homewood-chocolate-fest>

Chicago Tribune Web Behrens “Just Kidding” columnist used in 2/14 column -
Photo appeared online only:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/parenting/ct-sun-0214-15things-to-do-with-kids-20160211-photogallery.html>

Daily Southtown Kelly White wrote preview story, which ran 2/1 Allisa Opyd answered questions:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-chocolate-fest-st-0202-20160129-story.html>

Jessi Virtusio wrote a preview story that ran 2/17:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-sta-homewood-chocolate-st-0219-20160216-story.html>

Nick Swedberg wrote story from event on 2/19:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-homewood-chocolate-st-0221-20160220-story.html>

TV

WGN-TV La Voute pastry chef appeared on Lunch Break 2/18 making macarons

<http://wgntv.com/2016/02/18/lunchbreak-french-macarons-from-la-voute-bistro-and-details-about-the-homewood-chocolate-fest/>

WLS-TV Roz Varon used for inclusion in Weekend Roundup coverage 2/19 and 2/20:
<http://abc7chicago.com/entertainment/roz-varons-weekender-report/98329/>

WEB

Homewood Flossmoor Chronicle Eric Crump posted story 1/22:
<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2016/jan/21/homewood-chocolate-fest-offers-sweet-alternative-winter-blahs>

KidWinks.com Posted listing with photo:
<http://kidwinks.com/chicagokids/event/home-sweet-homewood-chocolate-fest.html>

FestivalTrekker.com Posted listing online:
<http://festivaltrekker.com/event/homewood-chocolate-fest/>

The Patch Lauren Traut posted story 2/17:
<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/start-countdown-chocolate-fest-0>

TribLocal Brava posted with photo:
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/community/chi-ugc-article-homewood-chocolate-fest-offers-sweet-alternat-2016-02-04-story.html>

Rail Fest | May 21 | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

The Community Relations Committee volunteered their time to assist the Rail Committee at Rail Fest. The one day event was held only in the auditorium and on Martin Avenue, from Chestnut to Ridge. On Martin Avenue under tents, the vendors sold memorabilia items, train collectables, and items associated with model railways. Train lay-outs were located in the auditorium as well as activities for children. Lil' Obie took families around the block and the caboose was open for visitors. The event brought families from Chicago, western suburbs, and Indiana. The Community Relations Committee volunteered with the crafts and line control for Lil' Obie.

Block Party Program | The Commission promoted the Block Party program through the e-Newswire, Village Key, and cable channel. The village website has instructions to assist an easy way to schedule and plan a party. A total of 27 block parties were held throughout Homewood neighborhoods. The Commission promoted Block Parties in non-traditional methods as well. The Community Relation Commission participated in the July 4th parade with a Block Party theme parade float. Another opportunity to promote the Block Party program was at National Night Out and at Homewood's Giant Village Block Party.

Homewood Art & Garden Street Fair | June 10 and 11 | 10:00AM to 9:00 PM

The Commissioners assisted with the promotion of the event, volunteered with set up and activities. The event was co-sponsored with the Homewood Business Association. The event returned to Martin Avenue, from Ridge Road to Hickory Road. The two day event was filled with unique art, community art and live entertainment. Art and Garden Street Fair collaborated with the Homewood Science Center with an exhibit and crafts. Nancy Pochis Banks returned again to create another street masterpiece on Kroner Avenue. Saturday we introduced a craft beer tasting with five regional beer vendors. The team received positive feedback and will have a tasting again in 2017.

Schedule of events:

Friday

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Little Miss Anne children's music

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM Sunnyside Up-A rock/bluegrass fusion.

6:00PM to 9:00 PM Maggie Speaks to sing all the top 40 hits

Additional Programming

Kids Crafts from 12:00PM to 5:00 PM

Homewood Science Center Pop-Up Science

Saturday

10:00 Workout with Intense Conditioning

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Scribble Monsters- Children's music

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Through the Flood, teen musicians from Homewood will perform.

3:00 PM to 5:00PM Work In Progress will perform a collaboration of bluegrass, blues, and folk

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM Latin Satin Soul

The event received positive media coverage, information listed below, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau, Village communication channels: cable channel, website, social media, e-Newswire, and Village Key (cover story).

PRINT

Daily Southtown Kelly White wrote preview story on A&G - Allisa Opyd interviewed ran June 8:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-homewood-art-fair-st-0609-20160608-story.html>

Jessi Virtuoso interviewed Allisa for Weekender, interview 5/26 - Ran June 6:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-sta-homewood-art-garden-fair-st-0610-20160606-story.html>

Story on H/F May 27:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/one-fine-day/ct-ofd-homewood-flossmoor-0626-20160626-story.html>

WEB

ChicagoKids.com

<http://kidwinks.com/chicagokids/event/downtown-homewood-art-and-garden-street-fair.html>

HF Chronicle Eric Crump writing profile on HF bands - w/ Through the Flood at Melody Mart - ran 6/10:

<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2016/jun/10/local-teens-will-rock-art-garden-fair-saturday>

General Story on A&G 6/6:

<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2016/jun/06/martin-avenue-color-sound-and-science-return-9th-art-garden-fair>

Homewood Patch Lauren Traut posted story June 5:

<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/art-garden-street-fair-shine-downtown-june-10-11-0>

MetromixChicago.com - included in listings:

<http://chicago.metromix.com/events/mmxchi-downtown-homewood-art-and-garden-street-fair-event>

TimeOutChicago.com Editor Laura Rote including in “12 things to do with kids in June” article:

<https://www.timeout.com/chicago/blog/12-things-to-do-with-kids-in-chicago-in-june-052516>

July 4th Parade

Commissioners coordinated, planned, and acquired entertainment for the parade. The parade was held on Monday, July 4, step-off at 10:00AM. Members decorated the float on Saturday morning July 2 and on July 4, rode on the float. The float promoted the Block Party program. The group handed out beach balls, Frisbees, and candy. The parade has become the premier parade in the southland area because of the efforts put into it by the Community Relations Commission. The strong reputation of the parade has placed Homewood in the Chicago Tribune, Southtown Newspaper, radio spots, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Movies in Our Parks | July 15 | Irwin Park

In partnership with the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission and Homewood and Flossmoor Libraries, two movies were scheduled for the summer season. The first movie shown was Star Wars: The Force Awakens at Irwin Park. The second movie, Inside Out was shown at Flossmoor Park on August 19. The movies are family orientated and promote the Homewood-Flossmoor community. Approximately 400 residents attended the Homewood movie.

National Night Out | Tuesday, August 2 | 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Homewood Police Dept sponsored this national event along with ADT and the Community Relations Commission. This event gives residents the opportunity to meet the brave men and women that serve and protect the Village of Homewood. National Night Out was designed to generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen the neighborhood spirit, police community partnership, and crime prevention awareness. The medic helicopter returned to Irwin Park for a photo opportunity. New for 2016 was the water balloon toss contest with an officer. This was a successful game; it teamed children up with an officer. The evening was filled with music from a DJ, activities for the kids, food from Homewood eateries, groups available to discuss crime, drug prevention, and the Community Relations Commission promoted the Block Party program.

The event was publicized utilizing all Village communication channels: cable channel, website, e-Newswire, Village Key, and HF Chronicle.

Homewood's Giant Block Party | Saturday, August 20 | 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Commissioners hosted the Homewood Giant Block Party and Annual Pooch Parade, the event celebrates all the wonderful neighborhoods that make Homewood, Home Sweet Homewood. The event was held on Martin Avenue, in front of the Gottschalk House to Hickory Road.

Unfortunately, the morning and early afternoon programming was cancelled due to rain storms. The annual Pooch Parade Liar, Liar contest, Mary Macaroni (children's entertainment), bounce houses, and midway games were cancelled. By mid-day, Commissioners were able to move forward with programming: ice cream eating contest, water balloon toss, games and crafts for children. Unfortunately the rain returned late afternoon and early evening; however, fest goers stayed and enjoyed food and performances from Eric Lambert and Final Say.

The Community Relations Commission worked with the Beautification Committee in promoting the Scarecrow contest to be held at Fall Fest.

The event was publicized utilizing all Village communication channels: social media, cable channel, website, e-Newswire, and Village Key. The event received regional promotion through the HF Chronicle, Southland Star, and the Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Homewood Fall Fest & Chili Cook Off | September 17 | 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

Community Relations Commissioners hosted Fall Fest and the Annual Chili Cook-Off, held on Martin Avenue. This event continues to grow and to be a resident favorite. The Community Relations Commission partnered again with the Beautification Committee in holding the 3rd annual Scarecrow contest at Fall Fest. 20 scarecrows were submitted for judging and then were displayed at the event. After the event, scarecrows were displayed throughout downtown Homewood. The 2016 Chili Cook-Off was a success; 11 amateurs participated. The beneficiary for the Cook-Off and pumpkin patch was the Homewood Science Center. The other amenities of the event consisted of a pumpkin patch, petting zoo, pony rides, magic show, wagon rides, and the showing of the movie *Hotel Transylvania*. Approximately 4,000 residents attended the event.

Fall Fest Entertainment and Activity Schedule

- Scarecrow contest- 10:00 AM announce winner at noon
- Pony rides and petting zoo- noon to 4PM
- Chili Cook-Off 2:00 PM judging and 3PM open tasting
- Mr. D's Magic Show 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- Pumpkin Patch 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- Horse-wagon rides 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Bands
 - Ralphs World 12:00 PM to 2:00
 - Work In Progress 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 - American Dance Center 5:30PM to 6:00 PM
 - Latin Satin Soul 7:00PM to 10:00 PM

The event was promoted through Homewood's Village Key, E-news, Facebook, Twitter, HCTV Channel 4, Village website, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. The event received publicity through the following:

PRINT

Daily Southtown Donna Vickroy included in Fall Preview section 9/9:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-sta-fall-fests-st-0909-20160831-story.html>

RADIO

WXRT-FM Terri Hemmert mentioned on air week of Aug. 29 - reached out to thank. She said she will continue to mention Homewood

WEB

HF Chronicle Eric Crump posted preview story - 8/31:

<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2016/aug/31/homewood-welcomes-autumn-annual-fall-fest-array-family-activities>

Eric Crump posted story after event 9/22:

<https://hfchronicle.com/photos/2016/sep/22/scenes-homewood-fall-fest-2016>

HF Patch Lauren Traut posted 8/27:

<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/homewood-fall-fest-returns-sept-17>

Ran a second story 9/16:

http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/homewood-fall-fest-returns-sept-17?utm_source=newsletter-daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=community%20corner&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=article-topstories

Metromix Chicago Brava submitted listing 8/31:

<http://chicago.metromix.com/events/mmxchi-homewood-fall-fest-20160917-event>

Holiday Lights | December 2 | 5:00 PM to 9:00PM

The event is a Homewood favorite and the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. The Community Relations Commission assisted the event with set-up, Homewood souvenir mug sales, and trolley rides. Because of the popularity of the event, the event started an hour early at 5:00 PM. The programming consisted of a Martin Ave Winter Market, trolley rides, a brass band concert, live reindeer, Christmas Tree sales (sponsored by the Cancer Support Center), ice sculpture demonstration, antique car parade, caroling and a visit by Santa. The event is held on Martin Avenue from Chestnut Road to Kroner. The Homewood Science Center joined in the festivities and opened the center for exhibits and crafts. The event brought 2500 attendees to downtown Homewood for an evening of shopping and festivities.

The event was promoted through Homewood's Village Key, E-news, Facebook, Twitter, HCTV Channel 4, Village website, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. The event received publicity through the following:

PRINT

Chicago Parent Carrie Rodovich included in Dec. "Going Places" with photos

Added to Holiday Happenings listing:

<http://www.chicagoparent.com/picks/holiday-happenings>

Elizabeth Diffin included in Dec. print edition w/ reindeer photo:

<http://www.chicagoparent.com/magazines/chicago-parent/2016-december/reindeer-games>

Daily Southtown Angela Denk interviewed Zach Thomas for preview story in

Weekend section 12/2:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-homewood-lights-st-1201-20161130-story.html>

TV

WCIU-TV Live in Homewood AM segments at 6:20 and 7:20 AM on 12/2

Featuring tree lighting and Homewood Science Center on You
& Me This Morning:

Part I

<http://www.wciu.com/videos/youandme/homewood-holiday-lights-part-1>

Part II

<http://www.wciu.com/videos/youandme/homewood-holiday-lights-part-2>

WGN-TV Lisa Komorowski appeared in-studio doing upcycled ornament
demo 12/1 for Mid-Day fix:

<http://wgntv.com/2016/12/01/midday-fix-diy-ornaments-from-lisa-komorowski-and-details-about-holiday-lights-in-homewood/>

WLS-TV Live in-studio interview and demo on 11/27 w/ Zach Thomas
and Homewood Science Center:

<http://abc7chicago.com/entertainment/holiday-lights-in-homewood/1625333/>

WEB

The Patch Lauren Traut posted story with photos 10/26:

<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/holiday-lights-sparkle-downtown-homewood-dec-2>

HF Chronicle Eric Crump posted story 11/5:

<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2016/nov/05/new-community-holiday-tree-will-make-its-debut-dec-2-holiday-lights>

MetromixChicago.com Brava PR submitted listing 11/2:

<http://chicago.metromix.com/events/mmxchi-holiday-lights-in-homewood-20161202-event>

Red Tricycle.com - Maria Chambers posted it:

<http://redtri.com/chicago/the-holiday-spirit-is-lit-up-in-homewood/>

Noon Year's Eve Celebration | December 31 | 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Commissioners decided to change the title of the event to Noon Year's Eve Day. The members hosted the Noon Year's Eve celebration in the Park District Auditorium; approximately 500 attended. The CRC welcomed back the Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team and White Castle donated 400 burgers.

The event was promoted through Homewood's Village Key, E-news, Facebook, Twitter, HCTV Channel 4, Village website, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. CBS Channel 2 news was able to showcase the event on their evening news with film footage.

The Community Relations Commission has had a busy and successful year. All the events would not be possible without the time, energy and enthusiasm of the members. The Village of Homewood is grateful for their commitment.

Respectfully Submitted By

Zach Thomas

Director of Community Marketing and Events

Community Relations Commission Staff Liaison