



# HOMER

# News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## A Look at the Homer Fire Department —*Volunteerism at Its Best*

The Homer Fire Protection District was formed in 1939 and consisted of 15 volunteers. The Main Fire Station was built in 1951 with the South Station following in 1976. The department now has 30 volunteer firefighters as well as a 15 member Women's Auxilliary. The District covers 52 square miles with approximately 2500 residents.

Prior to 1990, the department responded only to fires, but its responsibilities (including 911) have since changed dramatically. The department is now extensively trained or certified in many areas including:

- Haz-mat (Hazardous Materials incidents)
- Automobile accidents (including entrapment rescue)
- Confined space rescue (trench, grain bin, etc.)
- Water rescue
- Farm equipment rescue,
- Rope rescue,
- Medical Response,
- and of course, Firefighting.

Volunteers train a minimum of three times per month locally, as well as attending other training which can consist of training sponsored jointly with another local District, training or tours of local businesses for incident preparedness, or training at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute.

In addition to extensive training, Homer's equipment is quite advanced also thanks to the support of our residents and businesses. The department remains on the cutting

edge of technology with new equipment additions which include:

- Rope rescue equipment for use in water rescue or height rescue situations;
- Ice saws to enable cutting through ice to gain access to a water source such as a river, pond, lake,
- Jaws of Life which is used in cases of entrapment in auto or farm accidents;
- Air Bags which can be inflated to lift heavy objects off a trapped person. These bags can actually lift a bus or heavy truck if necessary;
- and a Defibrillator which emits electrical shocks and used to attempt to restart a heart which has stopped beating.

The department's largest new addition (and the pride of the station) is a 1996 International Rescue Truck. The acquisition of this truck was in planning stages for almost two years prior to its arrival. Everyone involved with the department is extremely pleased with its performance to date.

The unit contains large tanks of compressed air to refill SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) at an emergency sight. It also contains a powerful light tower which can be used to light a large area at an accident or fire scene. In one recent case in Ogden, the light was used to illuminate a safe area for injured residents to gather after a devastating tornado swept through the town. Homer residents attending the Fourth of July celebration may have seen a demonstra-

K. Clark

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VILLAGE BOARD LIAISON

Homer's 1996 International Rescue Truck. Homer Fire Chief Don Happ passes at the rear of the "Pride of the Station."



Lowering an ISO rating can mean savings for both residential fire insurance rates for policies written within a district rating is then used by insurance companies to determine level and training (50%); and 3) Water Supply (40%). This Fire Department — equipment, apparatus, and personnel Alarm — in Homer's case Champaign County 911 (10%); 2) loss. They evaluate 3 major features of each district 1) Fire Rating Schedule) as an objective analysis of fire suppression features in a municipality. The idea is to quantify the capability of a community to control fires and limit the resulting commercial Risk Services, Inc. uses the FRS (Fire Suppression (the village limits rating was already a seven). The ISO Com-rating has improved from a nine to a seven in rural areas almost two per week. Their ISO (Insurance Services Office) even 2 per month. In 1995, it responded ninety-nine times, sary. In 1987, the department ran a total of twenty calls, not Times have changed and growth has been quite necessary. In 1972 Ford Mass Casualty/Rescue.

Other department apparatus includes a 1990 International Pump, 1984 GMC Pump, 1962 Chevrolet Pump, and a 1972 Ford Mass Casualty/Rescue.

The Homer Village Board recently asked the Homer Firefighters to take over BSA (Emergency Services and Disaster Agency) duties and the department agreed to do so. Equipment changes were necessary and have taken the better part of a month to organize and complete. Some equipment was found to be obsolete and some was in disrepair or just extremely old. Much of it needed to be serviced or upgraded. Many firefighters spent countless hours on these projects but now, with the help and funding of the village board, the department is ready to serve in yet another capacity. "We really want to acknowledge the strong work-

and commercial policy holders. The department has chosen to join the Covenant system for medical training and support. Covenant was extremely helpful at the beginning of the medical program in 1990 and has continued to support and train on a monthly basis ever since. Officers are able to create lists of needed training with Covenant scheduling instructors to attend training sessions each month. "Our relationship with Covenant has worked extremely well for all involved," said Homer Fire Chief Don Happ.

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## Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God,  
wherever flames may rage;  
Give me strength to save some life  
whenever flames may rage;

Help me embrace a little child  
before it is too late,  
or save an older person from  
the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert  
and hear the weakest shout,  
and quickly and efficiently  
to put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling  
and to give the best in me,  
to guard my every neighbor  
and protect his property.

And if according to Your will  
I have to lose my life,  
please bless with Your protecting  
hand, my children and my wife.

—Author Unknown

ing relationship between the Village Board, the Fire Department, and the Police Department. It has certainly eased this expansion of our duties," Happ commented.

Happ went on to say, "Cooperation within a small community is vital and the Fire Department is thankful to the village's Board of Trustees for their service to the community. President J. Richard Freeman, Stanley Smith, and Ronald Umbarger serve in somewhat thankless positions with firemen always asking for something, if only an opinion. We appreciate all of their efforts and work, and fully realize that Homer Fire Protection District would not be what it is today if not for their efforts, and the efforts of those who came before them."

The Homer Fire Protection District has members whose ages range from 19 to 64 giving the department the best possible mix of maturity and enthusiasm. The roster boasts an impressive list of achievements: two Paramedics, eleven EMTs, eight First Responders, eleven Certified Firefighter IIs, thirteen Certified ERTs (Emergency Rescue Technicians), and three Certified CPR instructors. While these credentials are impressive, perhaps the most significant attribute of each and every Homer Firefighter is the level of caring about their community and all its residents, and especially their involvement with the children. The Firefighters look forward to their fire prevention program each year at Heritage schools. It enables them to contact and talk directly to the children about fire safety, emergency response, and 911 service. They are always amazed at how much the smaller children retain from year to year, and how many comment that they have been taught by an older sibling about what to do in an emergency. "We take a lot of pride in our work with the kids," Happ added. "It's really up to all of us to protect our children and Homer's firemen are more than happy to do their part."

Anyone having questions about the department, or desiring information about a demonstration, tour, or CPR classes should feel free to contact Chief Don Happ at 896-2171 or any firefighter listed to the right. ■

*Editor's Note: It is truly a pleasure to print a story such as this about the Homer Fire Department. Of all the things our community has to be proud of, this group of dedicated volunteers must certainly be close to the top of the list!*

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DON PATTERSON  
TREASURER, EMS LIEUTENANT  
SHANNON PATTERSON  
ANDY PRUITT  
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JASON RUSHING  
GARRY RUSHING  
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JOHN UMBARGER  
TOM WAKERFIELD  
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TOM WOLF  
ASSISTANT CHIEF

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

H O M E R   E C O N O M I C   D E V E L O P M E N T   B O A R D

As the first edition of *Homer News & Views* rolled out, I read the articles and was impressed with what was turned out in the short time we had to bring it together. I hope the people of Homer were pleased with it and will help us make it bigger and better. We welcome all comments as to how we can improve it. Continued publication will require the support of the community and continued financial support of local businesses.

Due to the overwhelming positive comments we have received regarding the first edition, the Economic Development Board has tentatively decided to continue publishing this newsletter on a bi-monthly basis. As stated in the first edition, this publication is put together by volunteers. I would like to especially acknowledge the efforts of Candis and Terry Wadley and Jim Alred for their many hours spent producing this newsletter. Special thanks also to Randy Moore at Printec Press in Champaign for the generous use of their printing facilities.

In reading the first edition, I was particularly impressed with the overall positive tone that developed and would like to repeat a few excerpted quotes. Think about them as you read.

"Simply put, we (the Homer Community Development Board) are here to find ways to enhance the quality of life for citizens of all ages within the town of Homer."

"Does the grow or die concept relate to communities? I suspect it does."

"Could Homer ever be so good that we would not want it to be better?"

and perhaps my favorite — written by Mrs. M. C. Thomas in 1909:

"Yes, times change and we all change with the times, but really, what place could you name where you would rather live than your pretty town of Homer?"

I found the above to be *positive phrases* by and for *positive thinking people!* This issue of *News & Views* is full of positive attributes of our community. Join with me in finding them.

—Stan Cato

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# LIBRARY NEWS

The Homer Community Library has undergone some major changes in the spring and summer months and we'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about them.

Orthalene Ressler, our head librarian for many years and Evelyn Cope, her assistant, retired on May First. Both women served our community selflessly and with distinction and we appreciate the dedication they brought to their work. They will be missed.

Chris Reel of Homer was hired as head librarian and began work at the beginning of May. Chris is married to Dan Reel and they have two children, Rebecca Isaacson of Banks, Oregon and David, at home. Chris home-schooled her children for several years and has worked as a seamstress.

Kate Vetter was hired as assistant librarian. Kate is sixteen years old, the daughter of Bruce and Kelly Vetter of Homer. She is a homeschooler and will be a senior in high school this fall.

In June, the library acquired two multi-media computers and a color printer. One of the computers enables the librarians to search for and order material available through the Lincoln Trail Library System. A second computer is open to the public. At this time we have the Grolier Encyclopedia on CD Rom. We will acquire more interactive software as funds permit. Come in to see the new computers — our librarians are eager to help anyone interested.

We'd like to thank our many patrons for their patience during this time of transition. We are back to our regular hours — Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you have never visited, please come by! We have over 10,000 books, a variety of magazines and more than 250 videos in our collection. We are proud of our library and the services we offer and we hope to see you soon.



Chris Reel, Homer's new Head Librarian at work in the library

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# JUST WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD?

BY R. L. HATTON

The answer to our titled question would depend on the specific needs of each individual community. To specifically address the purpose of Homer's Community Development Board, we have to specifically address Homer's needs. To date, our Board has been involved in seeking answers to questions of its own. Only with these answers (based on the concensus of the residents) can we formalize our specific purpose and direction.

**1** *Educational System.* Is the school system conducive to a quality education? Is the School Board responsive to the needs of the children and the concerns of the parents? Is the School Board concerned with providing quality education with sports and other extracurricular programs being secondary? Are parents within the school district willing to accept responsibility for promoting their child's desire to learn?

**2** *Business Climate.* Another factor that affects the quality of life within a community is the amount of business activity. Local businesses must have the support of area residents. Homer Illinois is not likely to ever have a giants like Super Kmart, Meijer, Lowes, Menards or Farm & Fleet. Homer's businesses are "small businesses," and small business is the backbone of our nation. They are here for our convenience, but are we willing to support them so they can continue to exist here. What if when the pharmacist retires we suddenly find ourselves without a pharmacy . . . and the extensive card shop and gift shop that are part of it? Remember the need for a quick trip to the hardware store for that what-not? Yes, you do, and isn't it great that we don't have to waste time and fuel going to Champaign-Urbana for that item! But how often do we think of the Hardware store and its extensive product lines for non-emergency items. Every business — from the shoe shop to the auction house, from the hardware store to the card room, from the grocery to the gas station — are supporters of the community. They support the school (especially through taxes), summer youth leagues and the many local groups or organizations that request their help. The people behind our businesses support their community. Is there a way a Community Development Board can promote citizens' support of their local businesses?

**3** *Local Government.* Is the local government responsive to the needs of the citizens? Does it do the best it can do for the infrastructure of the community? Does it keep the community operating efficiently and avoid unnecessary friction with various factions in the community? Do they do as much as possible to make life easier on the populace? Are they responsible to the people they represent?

**4** *The Citizens.* Do Homer citizens support the efforts of their representatives when the governing body attempts to do its job? Do the people use their rights as citizens when something is not being done? Do they vote? Do they support their businesses? Do they support their education system and attempt to make it better? Do they complain when something isn't done to suit them, yet withhold praise when there is positive action? Do Homer's citizens seek and support changes that will have positive effects on the community? Do they complain about efforts being put forth by others, yet refuse to get involved themselves? In general, do Homer's citizens stimulate or suffocate the community's vitality? Are citizens who own land adjacent to village limits willing to sell acreage which would allow the village to expand?

These are some of the important questions/factors that effect the health of our community. These are some of the questions members of the Homer Community Development Board are asking. These are issues that must be addressed. A development board must develop sources for networking, sources for funding and ideas about the needs of the community. It needs to be able to anticipate positive help and feedback from the residents, local government and local organizations and groups. The development board needs the input of everyone in order to get on with its job. The actions of a development board must have a positive effect on the community as a whole.

The Homer Community Development Board will find the answers it seeks and with those answers will come purpose and direction. Success will not be accomplished overnight, but it will indeed be accomplished!

# From the Archives

PRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF THE HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THE FOLLOWING [AUTHOR UNKNOWN] IS REPRINTED FROM THE HOMER CENTENNIAL BOOKLET, 1955.

## Old But Young at Heart

Our township was first settled by a man named Gentry, who in 1927 built the first white man's cabin. The second house was built by Hiram Jackson, both of the above early settlers remaining but a few years. Soon after, others were attracted to this part of our country, among whom were Moses Thomas (in 1832, our first permanent resident) and Thomas Butler, all of whom came to stay.

In 1836 about nine-tenths of the land in the county belonged to the government, and was subject to entry at the land office in Danville, at \$1.25 per acre. In 1836, M. D. Coffeen settled on the Salt Fork where the old town of Homer was afterwards laid off, and after felling timber and clearing the ground, erected the first store house in the town. His general stock of goods soon attracted the attention of a large part of the citizens of the county, who favored him with their patronage. At that time Homer boasted of having the one and only store in Champaign County. A store had been opened in Urbana in 1834 and one near the site of Sidney and one north of Big Grove previously, but all had ceased operation before 1836. Persons residing in Champaign County purchased their necessities from Danville, Bloomington, Decatur or at Homer. This merchandise came principally from Philadelphia and was hauled by wagon over the mountains to Evansville, Indiana and then by wagon to its final destination. About the same year Moses Thomas erected a saw and grist mill which ran about eight months of the year, and being the pioneer one in the county contributed its part to the building up of our town. A few years later, Mr. Thomas attached to his mill a carding machine which



M.D. Coffeen

carded the wool, grown over a large extent of country, into rolls to be spun by the maidens of the land into yarn, from which the matrons wove the jeans and linsey to clothe their families.

In 1837, M. D. Coffeen formed a partnership with one Samuel Groendyke and they decided to plat a town at the intersection of Sections 4 and 5, Township 18, and Sections 32 and 33, Township 19, a mile north of the present village of Homer. There are several explanations as to the naming of the town, but the one which seems to have come most directly from Mr. Coffeen himself is to this effect. One day in 1837, after the proprietors had located their general store, they commenced to talk about putting up a blacksmith shop and possibly a hotel, as well as platting a little town. Mr. Groendyke remarked "Yes, that plan would be more homer to me" (meaning more

homelike than it was then, with no place at which to stop). At this, Mr. Coffeen, who is also said to have been somewhat of a scholar and great admirer of the Greek Philosopher, replied, "Well, then Homer it shall be."

At this time there was no bridge over the river; those who wished to cross went down the stream about a quarter mile (east of the present bridge on Rt. 49) to a ford which enabled them to pass safely. This ford lay just below the place where the dam was later built. In 1845, the citizens of the town by private subscription built the first bridge across the Salt Fork, at a cost of \$450. At the time there was a semi-weekly mail conveyed by stage whenever the Salt Fork was in favorable condition. The bridge secured regular mails as well as the general accomodation of the public.

Up to this time our town was sparsely settled, the improvements being conferred to lands either in or adja-





cent to the timber, a common opinion at that day prevailing that the prairies were too bleak and cold to ever think of building a home upon, and anyone daring to predict that they would ever be even cultivated would have been considered a fanatic, if not a fool. The prairies were regarded as only fit for the grazing of stock and a home for deer, wolves and prairie chickens which roamed in countless numbers.

The main foods of the citizens were prairie chicken, venison, and other wild game, and fish from the Salt Fork River. Some of them had cattle for milk and meat, and chickens for meat and eggs. The only means of transportation was by foot, horseback or by stage coach.

The grist mill was the cause of the town being started and in a short while the new town flourished like a green bay tree, until the talk of surveyors coming through the country mapping out a route for a railroad set the inhabitants to speculating upon the direction the surveyors would take when they came through. In the year 1854, the final survey of the Great Western, now Wabash [the Norfolk and



Western in 1996] Railroad was made, and it missed the town of some 200 souls about 1 1/2 miles to the south.

The survey went through the land of M.D. Coffeen and he therefore began to think of a plan to start a town or have the other one moved. He proposed to the owners of property in the old town to exchange with them a like number of lots in the new town, which proposition was accepted by nearly all.

Although most of the photos presented here were actually made some 50 years after Homer moved, we believe they are pretty typical of the activities and clothing of the people of "Old Homer."

## HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

**T**hanks to all the friends of Homer Historical Society who submitted recipes for our cookbook. Because of limited space we were unable to print each and every one of them but we are keeping them on file for possible use in the future.

The new windows in the museum are in and we are giving the museum a thorough cleaning. Plans are to remove the old furnace (which we cannot use) and make room for new exhibits in the basement. We are running a dehumidifier full time down there now and plan to add another one. Also the source of excess dampness has been eliminated so we have a very dry basement

now for our displays. Museum will be open Crazy Daze with our bake sale in front.

We report a good turnout for our baked potatoes and nachos at the July 4th celebration. What a beautiful day that was. Thanks to the Homer Recreation Board for making it all happen. We'll be there next year!

At our next meeting, September 3 at 7:30p.m. in the museum, the speaker will be Catherine (Davis) Clinebell, Mahomet. The subject "The Trapdoor and other memories of growing up in Homer". We hope you will join us for a fun evening. Everone who is interested is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

### Historical Society Cookbook

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*All Society members are selling cookbooks.*

## HOMER'S RECYCLING CENTER

The recycling center in Homer located to the west of Main Street just south of the railroad tracks is now managed by ABC Sanitary/Recycling. Following are a few guidelines they ask that we follow:

### Recyclable Items:

- NEWSPAPER
  - Must be dry, or it is unrecyclable
  - Advertisements and color inserts accepted
- CARDBOARD
  - Boxes must be broken down
  - Boxes must be gray or brown only
  - No egg cartons
  - No milk or juice cartons
  - Paper grocery sacks are accepted
  - Cereal boxes should have liners removed
- PAPER
  - Must be dry, or it is unrecyclable
  - Writing/Typing paper is accepted
  - Computer paper is accepted
  - No carbonized forms
  - No plastic window-style envelopes
  - Magazines are accepted
- GLASS BOTTLES/JARS
  - No ceramics, crystal, or mirrors
  - Labels remaining on glass is acceptable
  - Please rinse before recycling
  - Please discard lids
- TIN CANS
  - Labels on the cans is acceptable
  - Please rinse out before recycling
- ALUMINUM CANS
- PLASTIC
  - Plastics which are recyclable are marked with PETE, HDPE, #1 or #2 on the bottom of the containers
  - 1 and 2 litre soda bottles are accepted
  - Milk, laundry detergent, liquid soap, and bleach bottles are accepted
  - Please remove lids and rinse before recycling

For the handling of recyclables we ask that all newspaper be placed in a brown bag, magazines in a separate brown bag, then both bags should be placed in a garbage bag. Around the outside of the brown bags inside the garbage bags place glass, tin, aluminum, cardboard and plastics.

For further information or educational assistance, please feel free to call 217-356-0909.

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# THE HOMER VILLAGE BOARD

We hear their names and see their faces around town but not all of us can put the right name with the right face. We're hoping that after looking at the picture to the right, that will be a problem of the past.

Village Board meetings are on the First and Third Mondays of each month, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Meetings are held in the conference room of the Village Hall, 101 North Main Street. 896-2521.

The next Village election will be held in April, 1997. At that time voters will elect a new Board President (commonly known as Mayor), and three trustees. If you haven't already registered to vote, we encourage you to do so and qualify for the next election. You can register at the County Clerk's office, 1st floor of the annex of the Champaign County Courthouse. Remember —the greatest work of a citizen is to vote!

Here are some names and numbers you may need:

Village Clerk	JoAnn Wallace	896-2193
Village Treasurer	Kristie Wright	896-2865

## VILLAGE BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance	Dennis Robards	896-2277
Water	Mike Staton	896-2181
Building & Grounds	Joe Humphrey	896-2597
Sidewalks	Ernest Wienke	896-2167
Streets & Allies	Morris Miller	896-2120
Personnel	Dennis Robards	896-2277
Ordinance	Orlena Pruitt	896-2748
Police & Civil Defense	Dennis Robards	896-2277
Health	Joe Humphrey	896-2597
Streetlights	Orlena Pruitt	896-2748
Drainage	Jim Little	896-2193
Trees	Ernest Wienke	896-2167



The Homer Village Board pictured left to right: Orlena Pruitt, Morris Miller, Joe Humphrey, Joann Wallace, Village Clerk, Ernest Wienke, Village Board President, Dennis Robards, Mike Staton, Jim Little.

## EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED?

If you are wondering how you can involve yourself in Village Government, here are a few suggestions.

### ELECTED POSITIONS:

- Village Trustees
- Village Board President (Mayor)
- Library Board
- Township Board

These positions require a nomination petition from the County Clerk's office in Urbana to have your name placed upon an upcoming ballot. The process is easy and might be your first step in community service.

### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

- Community Development Board
- Recreation Board
- Tree Board
- Zoning Board
- Friends of the Library

These positions are appointed by the Village Board President with the approval of the Board of Trustees. To get started contact the mayor and say you want to serve. You won't be turned down.

Like any endeavor, a successful town needs leaders. Homer needs people of vision and conviction to help it grow and become a great place to live and raise a family. Do you have an idea you want to see become a reality. You might be just what Homer needs.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HOMER

896-2423

M E M B E R F. D. I. C.

# The Homer Food Pantry

SUBMITTED BY BETTY TAYLOR, COORDINATOR

**D**id you know that Homer has a local food pantry? We would like to let you know how it started and how it operates.

The food pantry was formed in 1984 under the sponsorship of the Churches of Homer Cooperating Council. The churches include the Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church, the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, and the United Methodist Church. At that time the pantry was located at the Church of Christ and Pastor Bill Hall was in charge. When Pastor Hall left Homer for another church in southern Indiana, the Methodists were the only church in Homer with a pastor living in town so the pantry was moved to the United Methodist Church, where it has remained since 1987.

The food pantry was not created to supply a family with all the food they need but to supplement their needs on a temporary basis. It is designed to help them through bad times like being laid off from a job, being between jobs or having a disaster such as a fire or sickness. We also have several elderly people on fixed incomes.

To be eligible for this program one must live in Homer or have a rural Homer mailing address and must meet the income levels per person according to the Federal Government Poverty Guidelines.

We presently have 13 families (33 individuals) on our food pantry. There has been as many as 25 families and as few as 12. The 13 families presently on our pantry list consists of 6 single elderly persons, 2 elderly couples, 3 families of 3, 1 family of 6, and 1 family of 8. It always makes us feel good to see a family become self-sufficient again.

Our food distribution day is the second Friday of each month. Churches take turns being responsible to pick up the food at the Eastern Illinois Food Bank in Urbana. At 1:00 volunteers from all the churches (usually 10 or more) sort and divide the food into family groups according to the number of persons in each family and place it in boxes. Between 2:00 and 3:00 families come and pick up the boxes of food. This is a really smooth joint effort between all the churches.

A lot of the food comes from people like you, by way of donations and food drives. We purchase most of it from Eastern Illinois Food Bank. They receive food products from large companies and corporations like Kraft and Supervalu. A lot of the food is in dented cans or damaged packages that cannot be sold in stores, but the food content is still good so we can purchase the food for 14 cents per lb. (some items are only 7 cents per lb.)

The Homer IGA lets us put a collection box for food

in the store, usually a few weeks before Thanksgiving, for our annual food drive. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Heritage schools have collected food for us over the years as well.

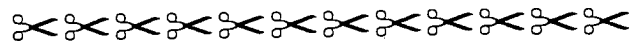
We also receive food and money donations from our various organizations in our churches, area businesses, and community organizations. We want to thank all of you for your continued support over the years for this worthwhile program.

One good thing about supporting the local pantry is that when you give you are sure 100% goes to the needy, and you can actually see your donation at work in the community. If you, or someone you know is in need of help, and think they qualify, you may contact one of the pastors or Betty Taylor, coordinator of the Food Pantry. ■

## MATTHIS PLUMBING

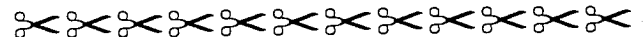
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## PROFILE OF A VILLIAGE TRUSTEE

Jim Little was appointed to the Village Board in 1994 to complete the unfinished term of Bill Smith. He was elected to a second term in the 1995 election. Jim ran on a single issue — drainage problems. When Jim came on the Board, the Drainage Committee which has in its charge the maintenance and repair of all storm sewers in town, had a \$5,000 budget. In many years, even that small amount wasn't spent. In his second year, Jim identified over \$30,000 worth of problems and new projects. Jim's budget last year was \$18,000, all of which was spent on improving the storm water removal system of Homer.



Jim Little

Some of the projects that have been completed include:

- A new storm sewer line connecting Maple and First Streets, allowing drainage of the east part of town.
- Replacing plugged tile on Ellen Street at two locations, joining First and Crittenden Streets.
- Installing a new line in the alley between First and Second Streets draining the area between Ellen and Main Streets.

- Cleaning and repairing lines and installing new clean out manholes on East Mary Street. This increased drainage of the southeast part of town.
- Cleaning the lines for the Wolf Addition in the north-west part of town.

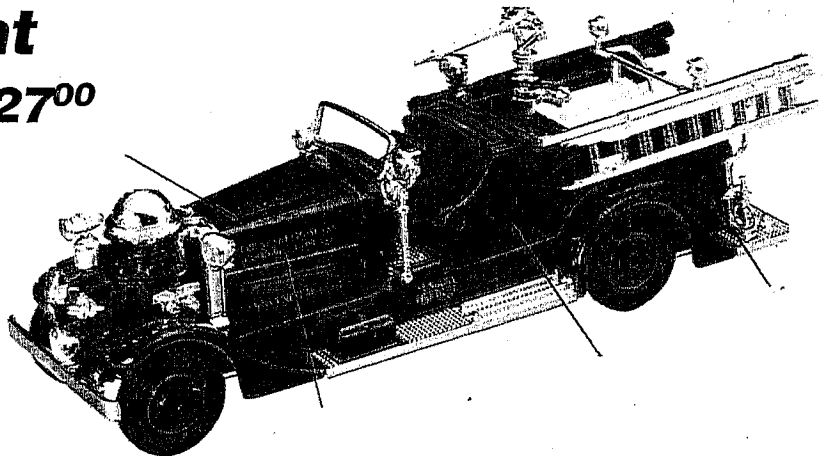
Jim's budget for FY 96-97 is \$20,000 to be spent on additional cleaning and repairs and plans include several major projects such as replacing the inadequate drainage system installed in the Sands Addition, School View Drive and Lynn Street Additions.

Jim, who is always ready to recognize the good work of others, was quick to site the contribution of Mike Bodine, the Village Water Superintendent, for his exceptional work on the drainage system.

The next time it rains real hard, and you notice that the water is moving off the roads and into the river instead of into your basements, you can thank Jim Little. When you live on a prairie, water doesn't disappear without some help, and a lot of expended energy. There is still a lot of work to be done, many years of neglect to remedy, but your trustee Jim Little is working hard to provide the residents of the Homer with quality life through dry basements. That might not sound like much unless you have a wet one! ■

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Check  Cash  To be shipped to the above address (add \$3.00 per bank). Make checks (\$27.00 per bank plus shipping if applicable) payable to *Homer Fire Department* and send to: **Fire Trucks, 811 South Main, Homer, IL 61849** or drop off orders at Don's Marathon Station, Homer, Illinois

# News From Homer's Churches

## HOMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUBMITTED BY BEV CARTER

Our Worship service will be at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday through Labor Day. Rally Day is the second Sunday in September. The Choir will resume rehearsals on September 4. The Disciple Bible Studies will begin again in September. Photos for the Church Photo Directory will be taken September 9th and 10th. Coffee Hour is held the first Sunday of each month.

## HOMER CHURCH OF CHRIST

The last few months have been very exciting for the Homer Church of Christ. Earlier this year, the congregation committed over \$400,000 in three year commitments toward the new building which will be located at 500 East 2nd Street. Eight acres were purchased from Dale and Mildred Wolf and the congregation broke ground on June 16th. The congregation pulled a long rope connected to a one row plow directed by our oldest member, Velma Hillery and our youngest member Brandi Lutz.

Since then, much construction has taken place in preparing the foundation and footings. The work is being done on phase I which is a 13,152 square foot facility consisting of 16 classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen, restrooms,

administrative offices, and an interim sanctuary. The interim sanctuary will be converted into classrooms in phase II which is a new Worship center.

In other news, the leaders will be going to Southern Illinois in September for two days of leadership development and vision casting.

Youth groups will begin in September but before they do, we have planned a special youth revival called, "Rock Solid" featuring WBGL d.j. Brant Hansen and special music for area groups. This will be August 16, 17, and 18, each night at 7:00 p.m. for ages 8th grade through 19 years old.

Over twenty men from the church participated in the Promise Keepers convention at the RCA dome in Indianapolis July 26th and 27th.

In addition to the above ministries, many more ministries and programs take place on a weekly basis and we invite you to join with us in reaching the community with the message of Christ. Our services begin with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and morning celebration at 10:30 a.m. We have nursery for each service, and children's church during morning celebration. Please call the church office for more information at 217-896-2332.

## HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING

SUBMITTED BY JACKIE STURDYVIN

Homer Churches Cooperating represents the four local churches of Homer. We are the Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist congregations. We practice a wide variety of styles and traditions but we are united in our desire to minister to the needs of the Homer community in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Responsibilities primarily are the Homer Food Pantry, the Homer Food Share and combined worship services throughout the year. Services during each year have been the World Day of Prayer, Good Friday, Thanksgiving and a Service in the Park.

The Homer Churches Cooperating recently sponsored a Community Worship Service in the Park on Sunday, June 30th. This was the third year for holding a service in the park with each year a growing attendance, despite the heat and humidity. There was a special message and music given by each of the churches. A potluck dinner was held immediately following the service.

The next community service will be a Songfest in the Park on Sunday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets and enjoy a short program of special music from each of the churches as well as song sheets of special hymns for everyone. Cookies and punch will be provided.

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*Church News in Homer* Continued

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CATHOLIC CHURCH**

SUBMITTED BY VIRNITA WHITT

Our church is located at the corner of Wabash and East Streets. Sunday Mass is at 10:30 a.m.. Holy Days is at 7:00 p.m. C.C.D. classes at 9:30 a.m. Sundays (preschool - grade 12)


Our Pastor, Dennis O'Riley is also pastor of St. Patrick's in Tolono where he also resides. He can be reached at 217-485-5194. Our Co-coordinators of Religious Education are Kathy Sarnecki, 469-7639 and Virnita Whitt, 896-2156.

We have families from Homer, Sidney, St. Joseph, Ogden, and Fairmount. Our C.C.D. classes are small, but our teachers are dedicated. We will have a First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation class this year. Religious Education (C.C.D.) will begin the end of September.



In the next issue, I would like to share a bit of history about our church with the community.

# HOMER

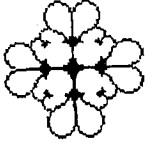
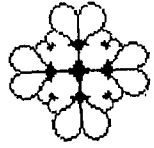
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# MISCELLANY!

## KRAZY DAZE

Krazy Daze will be Saturday, September 14, 1996. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. Main Street will be closed to through traffic. There will be entertainment during the day until 6:00 p.m. If you would like to be in the parade or have craft items, collectibles, etc., that you would like to sell, please call Doc Hatton at 896-2194 or Kim Matthis at 896-2689.

## BOOSTER CLUB RAFFLE TICKETS

The Heritage Booster Club is selling raffle tickets as a fundraiser for football equipment. Please call Maury Gorman at 684-2989 if you would like to purchase some.

## DIAMOND UPGRADE

The Community Development Board is accepting donations for upgrading the ball diamond at the Homer School. Please make your check payable to the *Homer Community Development Board* and send to P.O. Box 74, Homer, IL 61849.

## RESIDENTS OF HOMER — WE NEED YOUR HELP!

This is your community and *Homer News & Views* is your newsletter! We need information about your organizations! We want to hear your (printable) opinions about your community for a *Letters to the Editor* column — what, if anything, should be done. Deadline for the October issue will be September 12, 1996 (in our hands). Send to Homer Community Development Board, c/o Terry Wadley, 1650 Catlin-Homer Road, Homer, IL 61849.

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# START OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

For Heritage Community Unit School District No. 8

Registration packets for the start of school were mailed out on July 23 to all students who attended Heritage Schools last year. Students new to the district should stop by the office at either the Homer or Broadlands buildings to obtain registration materials.

Parents are asked to mail the registration materials to the schools by August 12 or come to the schools on August 12 or 13 to turn in registration materials. The mailing addresses are P.O. Box 260, Broadlands, IL 61816; or 512 W. First Street, Homer, IL 61849. The offices will be open for registration from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on August 12 and 13. The offices will also be open from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on August 12 for registration.

High school students new to the District should come to the High School on August 12 or 13 to meet with Mrs. Roberta Cundiff, guidance counselor, or complete schedules.

All students in grades K, 5 and 9 must have a physical examination. Forms are available in the school offices.

There is a teachers' institute on August 21. The first day of school for students will be on August 22 for one hour from 8:10 a.m. until 9:10 a.m. at Homer and from 8:15 a.m.

until 9:15 a.m. at Broadlands — no kindergarten students on August 22. There will be a full day of school for all students on August 23. Lunch will be served on August 23. Kindergarten students are dismissed at 1:00 p.m. daily beginning August 23.

The first day practice is allowed for junior high baseball is August 5. Additional details about the time and place for the first practice will be announced at a later date.

The first day of football practice is August 14. High school volleyball will have a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 18 in the high school gym. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please be at a meeting August 19 at 7:00 a.m. in the high school gym.

All students who will be participating in athletics must have completed a physical examination prior to the start of the season. Forms are available at both buildings.

Insurance is provided for all football players by the District. All other athletes must either purchase school insurance or parents may sign a waiver stating that your child is covered by family insurance.

School phone numbers are: Homer: 217-896-2421; Broadlands: 217-834-3393. ■

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