

February, 2000

# HOMER



# News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## HOMER GIRL SCOUTS

**C**oming soon! Thin mints and Samoas. The Girl Scouts have completed their annual cookie sale, and will be delivering the goodies in March.

Homer has six busy Girl Scout troops. Membership in Scouts offers the girls friendships, fun activities, new experiences and lessons in citizenship.

Cathy Lance, who is in her third year as a leader, has the youngest group, the Daisies. These five kindergarten girls are learning the basics of Girl Scouting. They learn the pledges, learn about qualities such as respect, obedience, and helpfulness and do crafts. At this level, they pay no dues and do no fundraising. The Daisies meet every other Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Susi Garrison leads the first grade Brownies, with five girls. Susie is a first year leader, and is aided by the mothers of her girls. They meet every other Tuesday at 3:20. Susie plans interesting and varied activities for each meeting. The girls recite the Brownie law and promise, and each girl checks the caper chart for her duty of the week. They sing, play games, do crafts and learn sign language, which they are very quick to pick up on. Dues are \$1 per meeting, which pays for supplies for projects and

other expenses. Future plans include a trip to Skateland, a pizza party, and a trip to Body Tech (?) in St. Joseph, with a lesson on fitness and nutrition.

Cathy Lance leads the seven second grade Brownies, with Tammy Pruitt and Rhonda Bates as co-leaders. They meet every other Thursday at 7 p.m., doing crafts, learning about people with disabilities, and about good citizenship. Along with the older troops, they participated in Christmas carol-

ing on December 20, and in the cookie drive with all the troops except the Daisies.

Led by third year leader Barb Rumer, the third grade Brownies meet every other Thursday at 7 p.m., alternating with the second grade Brownies. These seven girls have been busy with activities such as Christmas caroling, making gingerbread houses, visiting the Hog Wallow Farm in Ridge Farm, and taking cookie orders. They work together on earning patches, most of which require three or four activities. This troop is willing to volunteer at community events that don't involve fundraising.

Fourth and fifth grade Girl Scouts are led by Ila Patel, assisted by Betty Lacey, and meet every other Wednesday



Troop 189 Homer Brownie Scouts — Barb Rumer, Troop Leader, Samantha Perry, Samantha Adamson, Mackenzie Sublon, Kayleigh Johnson, & Bobbi Hawkins. Hanna Humphrey (not pictured).

*(Continued on page 7)*

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# HOMER News & Views

*Homer News & Views* is YOUR newsletter. Its content and value depend upon each resident of the community. We are depending upon you for the content of this newsletter. What this newsletter becomes is up to each of you. We need your help! If you have anything you would like to contribute, please drop it off at the Homer IGA or mail to the HCDB, P.O. Box 74, Homer, IL 61849.

**NOTICE:** This newsletter is published by the Homer Community Development Board to report items of interest to the citizens of Homer. The information included is intended to be accurate, but should not be relied upon for legal or official purposes.

## HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

- Greg Knott, President / Chair** ..... 896-2348  
*(Term Expires 06/30/02)*
- Spencer Ely, Vice President** ..... 896-2099  
*(Term Expires 12/31/01)*
- Don Glenn, Treasurer** ..... 896-2776  
*(Term Expires 05/31/00)*
- Bobbi Gordon, Secretary** ..... 896-2585  
*(Term Expires 03/31/01)*
- Dave Lucas, Advisor / Mayor** ..... 896-2618  
*(Term Expires 04/31/01)*
- Tom Cottrell** ..... 896-2451  
*(Term Expires 10/31/01)*
- Madeline Shreeves** ..... 896-3034  
*(Term Expires 12/31/01)*
- Pat Varvel** ..... 896-2392  
*(Term Expires 05/31/00)*

## A&K INSULATION

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**896-2423**

# SALUTING HOMER'S VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

## — An Ongoing Series —



**CHAD PRUITT** has lived in the village of Homer all his life — 21 years. He is employed by both the Homer and Rankin Police Departments.

After 4 years as a volunteer fireman, he has achieved the rank of captain. His special training includes First Responder, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Fire Essentials. He also spent 4 years with Champaign Fire Explorers.

Chad says he became a fireman to serve the people of the village and surrounding areas, to be a positive

influence on the community and children, and to work with the GREAT group of guys at the Department. ■



**DAVE REEL** has lived in the Homer area for 15 years, is single and enjoys motorcycle riding and archery. He is the self-employed owner/operator of Dave's Restaurant on Main Street.

Dave has been a Volunteer Fireman for over 9 months and has special training in Fire Essentials. Says Dave, "I enjoy helping people. I feel the Fire

Department is another way to bring our community together." Dave is excited about the potential Homer has to offer. "Homer has an ideal location for growth. Our future can be very prosperous as long as we can keep focused on the tasks at hand." ■



**JOHN UMBARGER** has lived in the Homer area for 42 years and is a local farmer. He has been a fireman for 10 years, and says he became a firefighter to protect Homer residents. ■

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HOMER

**Dr. Mark Faught's Dental Office**  
840 sq. ft., brick, central air, 2-1/2 lots, adjacent to school.  
\$39,000. Wolf Real Estate. 896-2253.

**The Card Shop**  
105 S. Main St. \$6,500. Janet Driver. 896-2617.

**Homer Car Wash**  
110 N. Main St. \$20,000. 896-2714.

*If you would like to list a business or building for sale in Homer, please contact Greg Knott at 896-23348 or Bobbi Gordon at 896-2585. (No charge for this service.)*

### MARQUEE SIGN KEEPERS

If you have a message to post on the Homer Lions Club Marquee for events, please telephone the Lions Members listed below with the information. If the listed persons responsible for posting and removal of messages during the month shown are unavailable, please contact K.C. Jones, sign chairman, at 896-2763.

— FEBRUARY, 2000 —

- J. Little . . . . . 896-2843
- S. Burwell . . . . . 896-2551

— MARCH, 2000 —

- M. Baird . . . . . 896-2008
- G. Compton . . . . . 896-2609

# FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

## Firehouse Auto

**O**n January 17, a new business, Firehouse Auto, opened on North Main. The business, owned by Tom and Tammy Franks, is located in the old Homer Fire Department building. They chose the name, because of their love for the Homer community, and since the fire department had always been there, they thought the name should somehow connect to it.

Tom Franks will operate the business with the help of Paul Harmon from Urbana. Between the two of them they offer forty-five years experience in auto body repair. Franks says their goal is to offer quick, two day turn arounds for minor collision repairs. Using the Standard Mitchell Estimates, Franks will also do insurance estimates. Although the business hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 to 5:00, Franks said he will be glad to make arrangements for after hours estimates.

Because of their lifelong interest in auto restoration, Franks and Harmon, together, have a bevy of tools needed to do auto body repairs. Franks feels they have the same equipment (or better) than most body shops in the area, from the standard tools required: spray guns, sanders, grinders, and welders to the more unique, door jack. The door jack allows one man to remove an automobile door, change the hinges and put the door back on the car without the aid of anyone else.

Although Franks wanted to open sooner, he didn't rush the opening



date, and chose to do things right the first time, instead of throwing things together only to have to redo them later. His thoughtful planning can be seen in the changes he made in the building. The old kitchen is now a storage area, housing a huge compressor and other large pieces of equipment. Franks has run air lines across all three bays for more convenience. He also converted one of the bays into a clean room for painting. The clean paint bay is enclosed, so that overspray will be contained in it. By doing this, auto body work can take place in two bays, while painting can be simultaneously done in the third bay. Because of the size of the bays, Franks will be able to work on just about any size vehicle, even grain trucks.

Franks will use PPG paint products exclusively. He will have a mixing station and do custom mixing on site. The custom mixing will allow him to do special paint jobs for the more enthusiastic car buff, as well as eliminate downtime by having to go somewhere else and have paint mixed for him.

In the beginning, Franks and Harmon will be the main workers with family helping with the phone and odd jobs. As business prospers, however, he plans to hire a student who is interested in learning the trade. He looks forward to serving the community of Homer, and hopes to supply all of Homer's and the surrounding communities' auto body needs.

You can call him at 896-3337. If he's not there, leave a message, he'll get back to you. ■

# HOMER DIRECTORY

## ATTORNEYS

**Nolan "Bud" Craver**  
Attorney  
896-2214  
128 S. Main Street  
Homer, IL 61849

**Marilyn K. Lee**  
Attorney  
896-2379  
999Cr 2500 E  
Homer, IL 61849

## AGRICULTURE

**Allerton Supply Company**  
896-2522  
1043 Cr 2600 E  
Homer, IL 61849

**Cargill Vineyard Seeds**  
896-2361  
2314 Cr 1050 N  
Homer, IL 61849

**Homer Elevator**  
896-2494  
P.O. Box 138  
Homer, IL 61849

**Pioneer Seed Company**  
896-2839  
2546 Cr 1050 N  
Homer, IL 61849

**Wolf Grain Systems**  
896-2192  
2761 Cr 1100 N

## AUTOMOTIVE

**Deke Denney Race Cars**  
Auto, Truck & High Performance  
896-2119

100 E. First St.  
Homer, IL 61849

**Don's Automotive & Towing**  
896-2817  
202 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

**Forward Motion Drive Train Specialist**  
896-2635

305 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

**Happ Performance Shop**  
896-2709

6737 Vermillion W. Rd.  
Homer, IL 61849

**Homer Automotive**  
896-2028  
302 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## BUSINESS/OTHER

**Jim Bell/T-Shirt Printing**  
896-2018  
P.O. Box 104  
Homer, IL 61849

**Burns Computers**  
Sales, Service, Training  
David Burns  
896-2797

207 E. First St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Chris' Lawn Service

217-896-2225  
2717 Cr 1250 N  
Homer, IL 61849

### D & D Driveway Seal Coating

896-2162  
9231 Vermillion W. Rd.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Easton Cable Systems

896-2302  
Boring, Backhoe & Trenching  
Ogden, IL 61859

### Ely Furniture & Design

896-2505  
2611 Cr 1025 N  
Homer, IL 61849

### Firehouse Auto

Auto Body Repair  
Tom & Tammy Franks  
896-337

111 N. Main St.  
(old Firestation)  
Homer, IL 61849

### First National Bank of Homer

896-2423  
134 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Fish Insurance Agency

896-2214  
P.O. Box 167  
Homer, IL 61849

### Frito Lay

2307 Cr 1050 N  
Homer, IL 61849

### The Gamer's / War Games

896-2145  
500 W. Fourth St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Harold's Welding / Fabrication

896-2512  
203 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Homer Auction

896-2262  
112 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Homer Car Wash

110 W. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Jim's Bobcat Service / Jim Lacey

896-2747  
710 S. Church St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Kirby Funeral Home

896-2323  
708 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Miller Aquatics/Health Club

896-2744  
P.O. Box 33  
Homer, IL 61849

### P & P Floors & Sanding

896-2669  
2512 Homer Lake Rd  
Homer, IL 61849

### Pelican Displays / Cabinets & Woodworking

896-2628  
209 W. Crittenden St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Rocket R & D

896-3041  
207 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Renaissance Studios

896-2763  
502 W. Fourth St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Salt Fork River Preserve

896-2733  
2573 S. Homer Lake Rd.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Southern Ag Equipment, Inc.

Farm Equipment  
896-2442  
2723A Cr 1250 N  
Homer, IL 61849

### Testing Components, Inc.

Animals  
896-2649  
10923 Vermillion W. Rd.  
Homer, IL 61849

### This & That

Hrley Rogers  
896-2527  
Homer, IL 61849

### Topline Farm / Horse Boarding

896-2691  
2455 Cr 1050 N  
Homer, IL 61849

### Uncle Boonie's Bait Shop

896-2619  
402 W. First St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### White's Ace Hardware

896-2412  
133 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Alan Wienke Auto & Truck Detailing

896-2387  
2599 Cr 700 N  
Homer, IL 61849

### Wolf Realtors

896-2253  
606 W. Third  
Homer, IL 61849

## CHURCHES

### Church of Christ

896-2332  
500 E. Second St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Presbyterian Church

896-2533  
201 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### St. Charles Borromeo

Catholic Church  
896-2021  
110 S. East St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### United Methodist Church

896-2038  
301 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## FOOD

### Allen's Meats

896-2532  
2 mi. N of Homer  
on Rt. 49

### Dave's Pizza

896-2123  
123 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Homer IGA

896-2411  
103 S. West St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## ELECTRICAL

### Do-All Electric Company

896-2619  
402 W. First St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Don's Electric

896-2197  
210 N. Ellen St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## GASOLINE

### Casey's

896-  
300 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Don's Marathon

896-2817  
202 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### United Fuel Company

Don Clem  
896-2344  
310 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## HAIR CARE

### Danny's Barbershop

896-2048  
103 W. First St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Lori's Hairdesign

896-2260  
606 E. First St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## HEALTH CARE

### Driscoll Pharmacy

896-2434  
131 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Dr. Mahindra Patel

Medical Clinic  
896-2491  
210 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## ORGANIZATIONS

### American Legion Post 290

P.O. Box 134  
Homer, IL 61849

### Homer Masonic Lodge

104 E. Wabash St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Homer Lions Club

c/o Secretary  
604 W. 3rd St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## PLUMBING & HEATING

### James Plumbing & Heating

896-2256  
208 E. Monroe St.  
Homer, IL 61849

### Matthis Plumbing, Inc.

896-2689  
945 Cr 2800 E  
Homer, IL 61849

### Ray's Plumbing & Heating

896-2222  
P.O. Box 136  
Homer, IL 61849

## STORAGE

### Jeff & Kim Matthis

Indoor Vehicle Storage  
896-2689  
945 Cr 2800 E  
Homer, IL 61849

### Store'n Lok

Mini-Warehouses  
896-2411  
103 S. West St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## TREES/NURSERY

### Hidden Acres Nursery

896-2738  
2451 Cr 1225 N  
St. Joseph, IL 61873

### Ingram's Nursery & Landscaping

896-2621  
1267 Cr 2500 E  
St. Joseph, IL 61873

### Wilson Farms

896-2160  
2587 Cr 1200 N  
Homer, IL 61849

## UTILITIES:

### CILCO

896-2628  
P.O. Box 109  
Homer, IL 61849

### Homer Village Water Service

896-2521  
101 N. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849

*Please contact Greg Knott at  
896-2348 for any listing changes.*

# HOMER AMERICAN LEGION AUX. #290

- Members met at post home on Jan. 10. President Lauri Umbarger welcomed all. Members reported 130 volunteer hours for the month of December. Two members donated blood and Blood Bank chair, Lori Rushing, reminded members that blood donations are needed.
- Education and scholarship chair, Chris Jones, received scholarship information and has taken the information to the high school.
- Membership chair, Susan Burton, reported that we have 74 paid members. Service eligibility dates are still open so if you know of someone that might be interested in joining — please ask them to come to a meeting with you.
- Past President's Parley Chair, Sandy Griffin, received scholarship information for the nurses scholarship and has taken it to the high school. The unit made a donation to the Dept. Nurses Scholarship Fund.
- Carolyn Dodd took items to Danville V.A. Hospital in the absence of Evelyn Cope and has received \$180.46 credit for the items.
- Junior Chair, Deb Happ, reported that the Junior Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Illinois on April 28 & 29, 2000.
- Chris Jones and the unit would like to thank all who donated in any way to the Angel Tree. We received an overwhelming response this year and we were able to help 32 children have a very happy Christmas.
- Chris Jones reported on the New Year's Eve Party. There were approximately 93 people in attendance and a great time was had by all.
- The Legion is considering sponsoring a Steak Dinner/Dance for St. Patrick's Day.
- The unit voted to help if they decide to.
- Deb Happ reminded members that the school is collecting Campbell's Soup labels and box tops from General Mills Cereals.
- The Auxiliary, Legion, & SAL will be sponsoring Super Bingo at Danville V.A. Hospital on March 11. Cookies and fruit donations are needed and all members are urged to attend and help these veterans with a fun evening.
- President Lauri thanked Shirley Cromwell and Marge Dodd for the refreshments. February committee: Cathy Lance will supply the drinks and each member is to bring 1 dozen cookies/candy and a valentine to be divided for senior citizens, shut-ins and area service people.
- Lori Rushing announced that Champaign County meeting will be Feb. 2 at Champaign #24 at 7:30 p.m. Leave post home 6:45 p.m. ■

# HOMER



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# FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HOMER

**896-2423**



MEMBER F.D.I.C.

## Homer Girl Scouts *(cont'd from page 1)*

from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. This very busy troop of ten girls made a dozen quilted baby blankets which were given to babies born at Provena Covenant Hospital just before and after the new year began, which was covered by a local television station. They spent two nights at camp in Gilman, promoted recycling, wrapped gifts at Borders Bookstore, and hosted a "Festival of Giving" for all the Homer troops, collecting items for the Crisis Nursery.

Julie Katterhenry, a fourth year leader, heads the oldest troop, consisting of two seventh graders and one eighth grader. Because of the busyness of the girls' schedules, this is an event oriented troop. For example, they don't have regular meetings, but recently participated in the Festival of Giving, a ski trip to Dubuque, Iowa, with other girls from the council, and the cookie sale. Julie's girls are willing to volunteer for community service projects. Several are trained babysitters. Julie plans to give CPR and first aid training.

All Girl Scout meetings take place in the Girl Scout room in the village hall and are directed by trained leaders. In addition to the training offered by the Green Meadows Council, the council also plans some activities for the girls, such as the day camp at Homer Lake, and a gal/dad activity.

Anyone interested in participating as a leader or as a Girl Scout or who would like one of the older troops to help with a community service project should contact any one of the people mentioned above. ■

## Wienke's Shoe Repair

122 S. Main Street  
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896-2514

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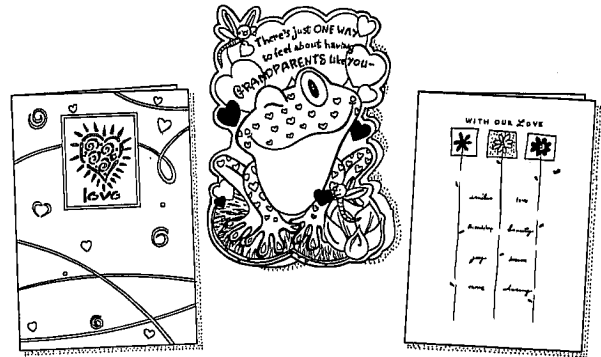
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# BOARD MEMBERS

## HOMER VILLAGE BOARD

Meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

- Dave Lucas, Mayor . . . . . 896-2618
- Cindy Pruitt, Treasurer . . . . . 896-2114
- JoAnn Wallace, Village Clerk . . . 896-2193
- David Burns, Trustee . . . . . 896-2797
- Joe Humphrey, Trustee . . . . . 896-2597
- Mike Johnson, Trustee . . . . . 896-2228
- Jim Lacey, Trustee . . . . . 896-2365
- Orlena Pruitt, Trustee . . . . . 896-2748
- Lauri Umbarger, Trustee . . . . . 896-2067

## HOMER YOUTH LEAGUE BOARD

- Mike Johnson, President. . . . . 896-2228
- Tom Wakefield, Vice President . . 896-2347
- Stacy Johnson, Secretary . . . . . 896-2228
- Lisa Wakefield, Treasurer . . . . . 896-2347
- Ricki Latham,  
Director of Concessions . . . . . 896-2088
- Dale Katterhenry,  
Director of Equipment . . . . . 896-2647
- Kim Little,  
Director of Fundraising . . . . . 896-2849
- Jamie Bryan,  
Director of Public Relations . . . 896-2388
- Daniel Gordon, Director-at-Large . 896-2585
- Cindy Pruitt, Director-at-Large . . 896-2114
- Jim Swathwood,  
Director-at-Large . . . . . 896-2861

## HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

- Marian Edwards, Co-President . . 896-2254
- Gene Happ, Co-President. . . . . 896-2004
- Charlotte Brown, Secretary . . . . 582-2056
- Evelyn Cope, Treasurer . . . . . 896-2583

## HOMER LIBRARY BOARD

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

- Sara Essig, President . . . . . 896-2772  
896-2145
- Jeanine Bensken, Vice Pres. . . . 896-2693
- Linda Pruitt, Secretary. . . . . 896-2742
- Marilyn Collins, Treasurer . . . . . 896-2282
- Gertrude Brown . . . . . 896-2049
- Cindy James . . . . . 896-3014
- Cathy Lance . . . . . 896-2086

## HERITAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Homer School.

- Jim Fish, President . . . . . 896-2756
- Dave Bosch, Vice President . . . . 834-3443
- Charles Berry . . . . . 834-3361
- Bruce Block. . . . . 834-3090
- Dale Katterhenry. . . . . 896-2647
- John Lannon . . . . . 684-2728
- Kevin Wright . . . . . 896-2865

## HOMER ZONING BOARD

- Chuck Benner, Secretary . . . . . 896-2516
- Don Glenn, Zoning Admin. . . . . 896-2776
- Ginny Dillon . . . . . 896-2719
- Mike Flickinger . . . . . 896-2815
- Gene happ . . . . . 896-2004

## HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING BOARD

- St. Charles, Church of Christ,  
Presbyterian, Methodist*
- David Burns, President . . . . . 896-2797
- Steve Burwell, Vice President . . . 896-2551
- Betty Taylor, Treasurer . . . . . 896-2844

## HOMER RECREATION BOARD

Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

- Danny Gordon, President . . . . . 896-2585
- Cindy Pruitt, Treasurer . . . . . 896-2114
- Kim Matthis, Treasurer . . . . . 896-2689
- Bobbi Gordon . . . . . 896-2585
- Lynda Umbarger . . . . . 896-2540
- Greg Knott . . . . . 896-2348
- Tiffany Matthis. . . . . 896-2689
- Ryan Byerley . . . . . 896-2026

## HOMER HOME EXTENSION BOARD

Meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in members' homes.

- Mary Ann Rohl, Co-Chair . . . . . 896-2270
- Virginia Baird, Co-Chair. . . . . 896-2207
- Shirley Miller, Vice Chair . . . . . 896-2340
- Pat Varvel, Secretary . . . . . 896-2392
- Lois Hockersmith, Treasurer . . . . 896-2553

## SOUTH HOMER TOWNSHIP BOARD

Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 202 S. Main St., Homer

- Don Morgan, Supervisor/Treas. . 896-2197
- Katie Woodmansee, Clerk . . . . . 896-2006
- Kenneth MacInnes, Trustee . . . . . 896-2390
- Richard Freeman, Trustee
- Connie Messman, Trustee . . . . . 896-2100
- Cheryl Baird, Trustee . . . . . 896-2008
- Elbert Rogers,  
Road Commissioner . . . . . 896-2831

Everyone is encouraged to attend any of the above meetings. If you would like to list your nonprofit organization members, contact Greg Knott, 896-2348

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## FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

### *Kirby Funeral Homes*

**W**hen a family member dies, care for the deceased becomes the utmost priority of the family. They want assurance that their loved one will be cared for by someone who is a professional, but someone who is also kind, compassionate, and sincere. Tim Kirby, who owns and operates Kirby Funeral Homes, is just such a man. Mr. Kirby is soft spoken, gentle, and has a reassuring way about him. He has been in the mortuary business for thirteen years. He began working for Calvert Funeral Home in Clinton shortly after completing mortuary school at Worscham College of Mortuary Science. He worked for Calvert's nine years, and two years as a DeWitt County Deputy Coroner before moving to Homer in 1996.

Since Kirby's arrival in Homer, he has completely refurbished the funeral home located at 708 S. Main, and is almost finished remodeling the mortuary at 112 N. Main in Fithian. He is planning an Open House for the Fithian location within the month. With new carpet, upholstery, and a new paint job, the funeral homes are more aestheti-



cally appealing to the eyes, which offers the family a more peaceful feeling about their deceased loved ones. The painstaking care Kirby has put into the restoration of the funeral homes shows what a keen eye he has for detail. His care about details also offers the family of the deceased a funeral they will remember with pride.

From the moment Kirby receives the call for removal of the body from the hospital, nursing home, or residence, his focus is on the deceased and the wishes of the family. After the initial preparation of the body, which includes embalming, Kirby then meets with the family for an arrangement conference.

At the conference, the family chooses the casket and vault, the minister, organist and music, pallbearers, and conveys to Kirby any special instructions for

the funeral. After the family conference, Kirby calls all the people the family has chosen to take part in the funeral. At the visitation, Kirby personally greets everyone who attends. It is part of his way of showing the family and friends that he cares about them.

Once the funeral is over, most people would think Kirby's job is complete and he is finished with the family, but this is not true. Kirby continues to think about the families he serves and once a year he honors the deceased by having an annual Christmas memorial service for them. At the service, he has a Christmas tree with a special ornament for each family member that has died. The family is given the ornament in memory of their deceased loved one. This year's memorial is scheduled for December 5th at 2:00 p.m.



## Kirby Funeral Homes *(continued)*

While dying is a subject most people don't like to talk about, it is a fact of life. The worst thing a family has to do is make arrangements after the fact, when emotions are running high. Prearrangement packages are much easier on everyone. Kirby offers two prearrangement packages. The first is simply a list of the deceased wishes. It is a preplanned funeral listing the minister, organist, pallbearers, music, and any other wishes you might have. The second is much like the first, but you actually pay in advance for the service, casket and vault. This preplanned, prepaid funeral is a good deal, because it locks in the price at the current date's rates. If you prepay and prearrange now, and you die twenty years later, your funeral doesn't cost you the inflation of 20 more years. It's a good plan. Kirby also offers cremation services. Remember that dying is hard on those that are left behind, so help them by preplanning. Make the arrangements yourself and save them the burden of a last minute, rushed arrangement.

Kirby has an answering service and can be reached 24-hours a day. Kirby likes the Homer area and plans to expand his mortuary service in years to come as the Homer community grows. He plans to be a part of Homer's future, and he will continue to offer the community his personal dedication to serving the family's every need. ■

## HOMER PEACE MEAL

**H**omer Peace Meal is still going strong. We are now delivering meals to six homebound seniors here in town. We are averaging eight people a day at the site for lunch. We are also blessed with many fantastic volunteers.

In January we were entertained by Marvin Lee Flessner. Everyone had a good time. February's party is still being planned. Keep your eyes open for further information.

In March and April we are hoping to have hearing screenings, thanks to the Homer Lions Club.

Every Tuesday and Thursday we get together for a little stretching and exercising. It is a lot of fun and we feel better when we are done.

We are always looking for new participants. If you are interested in joining us or are in need of home delivered meals, feel free to call. For information, a calendar/menu, or for reservations please call Sharon Jeffers at 896-2121 or 896-2668. ■

## HOMER CHURCH NEWS

### FROM THE PRESBYTERIANS

**A** man stood up to speak at the funeral of friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone ... from the beginning to the end. He noted that first came the year of her birth; then he spoke of the years of her death

with tears in his eyes. But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For the dash represented all the time she spent alive on earth. Now only those who knew and loved her know what that little life was worth. For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love ... and how we spent our dash.

So think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left. If we could just slow down enough to consider what is true and real, and try to understand the way other people feel. And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more; and love the people in our lives, like we've never loved before. If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a smile, remembering that this special dash might only last a little while. So, when your eulogy's being read, with your life's action to re-hash, would you be proud of the things they say ... about how you spent your dash?

The churches of Homer can guide and help. Attend and worship. Seek the One Who provides our dash. ■



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## HOMER HOUSEHOLD

*Recipes submitted by  
Home Extension Members*

### **SURPRISE PARTY POPCORN**

— submitted by Shirley Miller

1 bag plain microwave popcorn  
2 squares white almond bark, melted

Pop corn and empty into a large bowl. Melt almond bark in microwave according to package directions, and pour over corn. Stir well to coat popcorn. It is a surprise to people when they find it is sweet and yummy!

### **BAKED SWISS STEAK**

— submitted by Norma Diel

3/4 lb. boneless round steak	1/2 cup chopped carrots
2 T. flour - divide	1/2 cup celery
1/2 tsp. salt	1 T. chopped onion
2 T. oil	1/4 tsp. Worcestershire
14 oz. stewed tomatoes	2 T. sharp cheddar cheese

Cut steak into serving pieces. Pound to 1/4" thick. Combine 1 T. flour with the 1/4 tsp. salt, and coat meat on each side. Brown in oil. Transfer meat to a shallow 2 qt. baking dish. To drippings, add tomatoes, carrots, celery and onion. Add remaining flour and the Worcestershire sauce. Bring to a boil, and cook 2 min. Pour over meat. Cover and bake 1-1/2 hours at 350° or until tender. Sprinkle with cheddar cheese, and return pan to oven just until cheese is melted. (Serves 2)

### **FROSTED MEAT LOAF**

— submitted by Teresa Wilson

1-1/2 lbs. ground beef	1 or 2 T. drippings
1 can Campbell's Golden Mushroom Soup	1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 cup finely chopped onion	Dash of pepper
1 egg, slightly beaten	2 cups mashed potatoes
	1/4 cup water
	1 cup small bread crumbs

Mix the ground beef, 1/2 can soup, bread, onion, egg, salt and pepper. Shape into loaf, place in shallow pan. Bake 350° for 1 hours. Frost loaf with mashed potatoes, bake 15 min. more. Mix remaining soup with water and drippings. Heat and serve with loaf. ■

## HOMER LIBRARY NEWS

**T**ax forms are available now in the library. We have many of the most common forms and instruction booklets and there is no charge for them. Less common forms can be photocopied from the masters or printed from the CD-ROM. There is a \$.15 per page charge for this service.

Winter is a great time to read. When bad weather threatens, stock up on books before it hits. Or check out some videos. But in case of a severe storm, keep in mind that the library may be closed, and call ahead at 896-2121 before making a trip here. Materials that were due on a day when we have to close because of weather will not be considered overdue, but will be due instead on the next day that we are open.

Chris' Quick Pick: *Second Wind* by Dick Francis. His latest concerns a TV weatherman, a hurricane fly-through, a mixed herd of cattle, and an unexpected revelation.

We have a packet of information specifically designed for parents of middle school children, *ParentTech: Parenting in a Digital Age*. Free copies of this material, which includes both print and electronic resources, can be ordered for home use. Parents without a home computer are welcome to use the electronic materials in the library. ■

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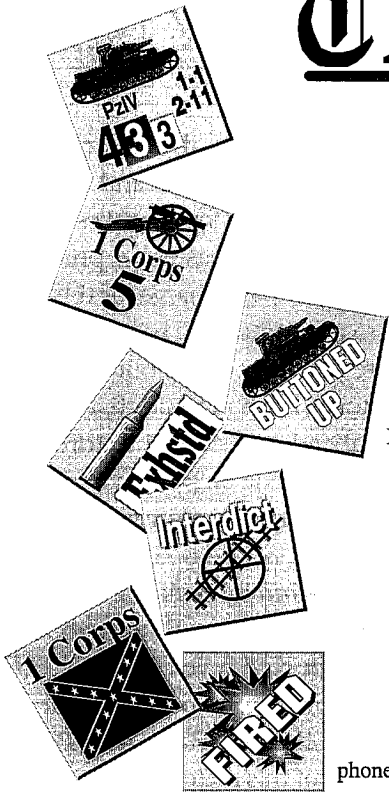
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