

# HOMER



February, 2002

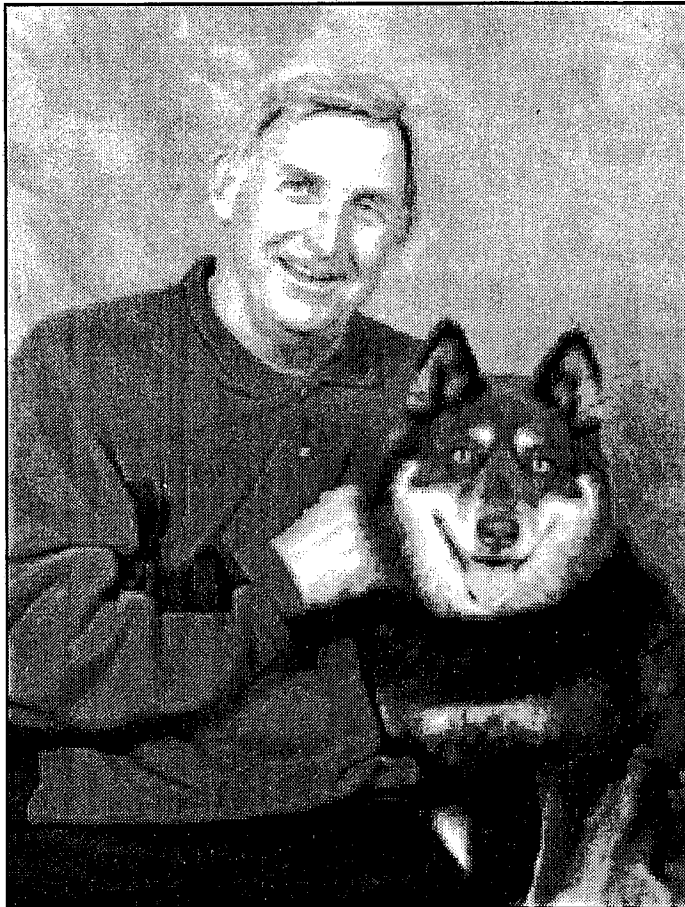
# News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## *Jim Swathwood* *Lay Pastor, Teacher, Sports Fan*

Some people set a goal early in life and work directly towards it, with no turning aside. Others take a more circuitous path, eventually reaching their original goal. Jim Swathwood is one of the latter.

Born in South Bend, IN, to Oscar, a Studebaker



employee, and Elsie Swathwood, Jim had one brother, Oscar Junior, and a much older half-sister, Alice. He lived in South Bend until his early 20's, when he enlisted in the Air Force, serving from 1951 to 1955. Jim worked as a record keeper, operating an IBM punch card machine. He was sent to Korea, but that was a mistake, since there were no punch card machines there at the time, during the height of the Korean War. The Air Force quickly corrected its mistake and sent him to Japan, where he spent between one and one half and two years. He also was stationed in Colorado, where he first felt called to the ministry.

Upon leaving the Air Force, he spent one year and a summer at Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL. Then he worked for several years. But, needing to take advantage of the GI Bill, and in danger of losing it if he didn't, he took night classes at Indiana University extension school at South Bend. He finished his bachelor's degree at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. He planned to study history, but was encouraged to major in Social Studies because it would lead to more opportunities.

Following his graduation in 1962, and having some GI benefits left, he enrolled at Louisville Seminary in Kentucky. This was a fairly conservative school at the time. While there he chose to take a student pastorate to help pay for his education. He could have chosen either Bethel, KY or Golconda, IL. He chose Illinois, driving there from Louisville on weekends. This was the beginning of his association with the state of Illinois. As a student, Jim was not allowed to be an

*(cont'd on page 4)*

# BOARD MEMBERS

## BOARD MEMBERS

### SOUTH HOMER TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

Homer

Don Morgan, Supervisor/Treas	896-2618
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

### 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 CHURCHES COOPERATING BOARD

St. Charles, Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Methodist

Rev. Steve Burwell, President	896-2551
Jim Swathwood, Vice President	896-2861
Gene Ethridge, Treasurer	896-2286
Joan Lane, Secretary	896-2717

### HOMER ZONING BOARD

Barb Gilhoaus, President	896-2237
Chuck Benner, Secretary	896-2516
Ginny Dillon	896-2719
Mike Flickinger	896-2815
Gene Happ	896-2004
Elizabeth Walton	896-2687

### HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Homer Historical

Building

Becky Smith, President	896-2722
Ray Cunningham, Vice-President	896-2558
Charlotte Brown, Secretary	582-2056
Pat Butler, Treasurer	896-2657
Bill Butler	896-2657

Everyone is encouraged to attend any of the above meetings. If you would like to list your nonprofit organization members, contact any of the CDB Board Members listed here.

Homer News & Views is YOUR newsletter. Its content and value depend upon each resident of the community. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please drop it off at the Homer Country Market or mail to the HCDB, P.O. Box 11, Homer, IL 61849 or e-mail to <bsmith@admin.housing.uiuc.edu>.

### HOMER HOME EXTENSION BOARD

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

Mary Ann Rohl, 1st Vice-Chairman	896-2270
Pat Butler, 2nd Vice-Chairman	896-2657
Elvira Wakefield, Secretary	896-2153
Lois Hockersmith, Treasurer	896-2553

### HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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

Ray Cunningham, President	896-2558
Greg Knott, Treasurer	896-2348
Becky Smith	896-2722
Kevin Knott	896-3276
Kevin Wright	896-2865
Bobbie Gordon	896-2585
Brett Barnhart	896-2112
Pat Butler	896-2657
Rob Boyer	896-3227

### HOMER YOUTH LEAGUE BOARD

Dale Katterhenry, President	896-2647
Danny Gordon, Vice President	896-2585
Stephanie Beamer, Secretary	896-3800
Cindy Pruitt, Treasurer	896-2114

### 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
Tim Kirby	896-2323
Helen Krukeweitt	896-2198
Jim Mullin	
Molly Shoaf	896-2549

### HOMER RECREATION BOARD

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

Jari Hilpiper - President-Secretary
Lynn Perry, Vice President
Becky Umstead, Treasurer
Jill Harshburger
Scott Hilpiper
Jeff Hashburger
Heather McCallister

Notice: This newsletter is published by the Homer CDB 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. Opinions expressed within are the personal opinions or feelings of the writers and not to be taken as a criticism of anyone.

# Referendum On March Ballot

When you vote in the March 19th election this year, you will find an advisory referendum concerning the construction of a sanitary sewer system. The question you will find on the ballot will be as follows:

"Should the Village of Homer, Illinois, construct and maintain a mandatory sanitary sewer system at an estimated current cost of \$5.6 million, financed by grants of \$2.7 million and a 40 year repayment loan of \$3.9 million, at an estimated current cost per household of \$33.50 per month for debt service, plus a user fee averaging \$16.00 for a household using 6000 gallons of water per month?"

I thought I would use this article to review some of the parts of the question so everyone would understand what they are voting for.

First, "... construct and maintain". The task before the board is to both construct the system and also maintain and operate the system. That is why there are two components to the billing. One cost is to retire the debt for the construction loan and the second cost is to pay for labor, supplies, overhead, utilities, and future repair cost of long-term operation of the system.

Next is the term '... mandatory sanitary sewer system.' This means that every household in the village will be expected to hook up to the new system. This includes those homes that have current legal systems or even those who have newly installed systems. Everyone in town will be required to pay the debt service portion of the sewer cost. The board is looking into different ways of dealing fairly with those who have recently installed new systems in terms of the user fees.

The phrase '... estimated current cost' is used twice because we are basing the total cost of the project on the cost of the Thomasboro project. Thomasboro is in the middle of sewerage their town. We took the contractor cost from their project and applied those figures to our design and arrived at an 'estimated current cost'. The cost may go up or even go down depending upon the construction market when our project is launched. We feel very confident of these numbers and they represent our best effort to provide you with good numbers so you can make an informed decision.

How much grant money we will receive is always a great unknown. We expect to receive an amount represented by the phrase '... financed by grants of \$2.7 million'. There was a news article the first week of

January about the village of Downs, Illinois receiving \$1.5 million in grants for a sewer from the EPA. We will be applying for this and other grants to reduce our out-of-pocket cost.

As was mentioned earlier, the two components of the per household cost for sewer are '... debt service' and '... user fee'. If we can reduce the village share of construction cost and lower the amount we must borrow, the debt service per household will be lower. We are also looking into ways to 'prepay' the debt to lower the amount of interest that must be paid.

I hope this has answered some of your questions. If you have any other questions, we are planning a Town Meeting on Feb. 11th at 6:30 PM in the Village Hall. I look forward to seeing you there.

On a final note, the Village will be holding its sesquicentennial celebration in the year 2005. I will be putting together a committee to plan this very important celebration. It may sound like a long time away but it will be here before you know it. If you are interested, please let me know.

Dave Lucas, Mayor

## Town Meeting

February 11  
at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Village Hall

to discuss advisory  
referendum concerning  
the construction of a  
sanitary sewer system

## Jim Swathwood *(cont'd from page 1)*

official pastor, but was considered "student supply". That meant that he was not allowed to serve communion, perform marriages or do baptisms, but he could conduct funerals and preach. While at Golconda, he had a provisional teaching certificate, which allowed him to do substitute teaching.

Jim was a student at Louisville when President Kennedy was assassinated and remembers it as a time of turmoil on the campus as well as in the country. There was a small but vocal group of agitators, which was disillusioning to him. Jim stayed on as a student pastor at the Golconda church, but left the seminary. Instead, he attended summer school at the University of Illinois for four years, completing on his master degree in education in 1968. During one of those summers, he worked with accelerated students at Indiana University.

There was a glut of teachers in the late 1960's and it took Jim awhile to find a teaching position, but he was hired in the early 1970's to teach at Diamond Grade School. He taught seventh and eighth grade social studies for 23 years in the Oakwood School District and also did a little coaching. He retired in 1993, following 28 years of active teaching.

Before moving to the Homer area in the mid-1970's, he lived for a time in Mahomet and attended Grace Baptist Church, where he was rebaptized. Jim has been a lay pastor for about 20 years. Locally, he has preached in Fairmount, Batestown and Union Corners. He is now a commissioned lay pastor of the Homer Presbyterian Church, meaning that he can do many of the things that an ordained minister can do, but only in his own church.

Jim is an avid Illini and Heritage schools sports fan, attending as many games as responsibilities at the church will allow, and is generally supportive of Heritage student activities. He is involved with the Youth League, keeping the scoreboard at games, and having done some coaching and announcing in the past. He is secretary of the Homer Lions Club.

As a member of the nursing home auxiliary, Jim participates in a weekly music program at the Champaign County Nursing Home. In addition to the weekly meeting, he gives communion to people on the third Tuesday of each month. Life has surprises. He never expected to be involved in a nursing home ministry.

Jim bought his first (and only) home three years ago. He lives there with Cody, his part-husky, 12 year

old female companion.

This sketch of Jim's life does not begin to fill in the details, the students that Jim has influenced over the years, the people in the churches he has served who have benefitted from his ministry, the young athletes who have strived to better themselves because of his interest in them. Jim has spent his life giving of himself to others. Thanks, Jim!

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## Homer American Legion Auxiliary

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The Homer American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #290 met at the Post Home with President Cathy Rouse presiding. There were 11 Senior members and 2 Junior members in attendance. Members reported 92 hours of volunteering and 1 blood donation. Membership chair Susan Burton reported that 74 members have now paid their dues. She has sent notices to those members who have not paid their dues. Angel Tree Chair, Chris Jones announced that there were 27 children that we were able to help this year. She reported that the donations were abundant despite the state of the economy. Chris reported that she will put a thank-you note in the Leader and the Today papers.

Poppy Chair, Deb Happ, reported that Poppy Days will be May 17 and 18. The unit voted to help the SAL with the Pancake/Sausage Breakfast on Feb. 2nd at the Post Home. The unit voted to donate \$25 to the Heritage School food drive at the Homer building. The unit will be working with the Legion and SAL to hold a Valentine's Dance on Feb. 16th. The members sent 25 Christmas goodies plates for Senior Citizens and Service people. They will do the same at the February meeting for Valentine's Day. If you know of anyone from the Homer area that is in the service, please contact any Auxiliary member with their address so that they can be added to our list.

Lori reported that Homer now has a webpage. The address is [www.homerillinois.com](http://www.homerillinois.com). She asked permission to work with Ray Cunningham to put information about the Auxiliary on this page. The members agreed that this would be good publicity for the organization.

The unit meets the second Monday of each month at the Legion Post home at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to attend at any time to see first hand what our unit does to support our community and the veterans.

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## FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

### Ellen Street Salon

# *Barnhart Is Hair Styling In New Homer Location*

Though new to Homer, Holly Barnhart is not new to the art of cosmetology. Barnhart worked as a hair stylist at Hair Benders/Lando in Campus town for seven years. She graduated from the Beaumonde School of Cosmetology on South Neil in Champaign in 1990. Now, after moving to Homer with her husband Brett, and their two children, Bridget and Broderick, Barnhart has opened the Ellen Street Salon. Her business is located in her home at 308 S. Ellen. She will offer hair cuts, perms, colors, (both temporary and permanent) as well as highlighting. Barnhart will also do special occasion styles for weddings, proms, such as up-dos and braids. She offers hair styling for all ages, including children. She also does hairstyling for men; and clipper cuts are not a problem.

Her hours, at this point, are pretty flexible. A patron needs only to call 896-2112 to make an appointment. Barnhart is willing to start early or work late.

Having worked as a Hair Stylist for 11 years, Barnhart's favorite part of being a stylist is meeting new people. She thinks styling hair is also fun, "because it is like being a kid again, playing with Barbie dolls." The only draw back to the job that Barnhart has experienced came with her Campus town job, and that was due to people (college students) who didn't wash their hair regularly. They would make an appointment and come in with really dirty, gross hair, fully expecting Barnhart to cleanse it thoroughly and take care of the problem they had created.

Like all stylists, Barnhart is required to earn 14 continuing education credit hours every two years in

order to keep her State of Illinois Cosmetology license. In order to do this she attends one of the two major style shows each year. The styling shows are held either in Oakbrook, IL, or St. Louis, MO, and feature the latest hair styles and cuts, along with the newest hair products.

At this point, Barnhart is uncertain as to whether she will carry a full line of hair products. She wants to increase her number of clientele, but her patrons' needs will determine whether or not she carries hair products.

If you can't get an appointment to work with your schedule, or you are looking for a new hair style, why not call the Ellen Street Salon? Holly Barnhart will be glad to assist you.

### The costs of Barnhart's hairstyles are:

Shampoo, Cut & Blow Dry	\$10.00
Temporary Color	25.00
Permanent Color	30.00
Highlighting	25.00
Perms with a Cut	30.00
Special Occasions Vary	15.00+

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# Homer Household

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## SWEET 'N SOUR RIBS

3-4# boneless country style ribs  
 1/4 c. cider vinegar  
 1- 20 oz. can pineapple tidbits, undrained  
 1/4 c. tomato paste  
 2- 8 oz. cans tomato sauce  
 2 T. Worcestershire sauce  
 1/2 c. thin sliced onion  
 1 garlic clove, minced  
 1/2 c. thin sliced green pepper  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 1/2 c. brown sugar  
 Place ribs in a crockpot. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over ribs. Cook on low for 8-10 hours.

## CORN MEAL BISCUITS

1 1/2 c. flour  
 2 tsp. sugar  
 1/2 c. corn meal  
 3/4 c. milk  
 3 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

1/4 c. shortening

Mix the flour, baking powder, sugar and salt together. Add the corn meal and mix well. With a pastry blender, cut in the shortening until particles are fine. Stir in the milk and mix until dough clings together. Knead on floured surface 10 times. Roll out to 1/2" thickness and cut out with 2" biscuit cutter. Bake at 425 for 10 min.

## GRANDMOTHER'S CINNAMON PIE

2 eggs, beaten

1/2 c. sugar

2 1/2 c. milk

1 tsp. cinnamon

3 T. flour, heaping

Mix flour, sugar and cinnamon together. Add beaten eggs and milk and stir until mixture is smooth and well blended. Pour into 9" unbaked pie shell. Bake at 375 for 45-55 min. or until custard is thick.

# Homer Homememaker Extension

Homer Homemakers Extension Unit has begun a new calendar year with Bonnie Compton as chairman; Virginia Baird, co-chairman; Mary Ann Rohl, 1st vice-chairman; Pat Butler, 2nd vice-chairman; Elvira Wakefield, secretary; and Lois Hockersmith, treasurer. Other officers this year are Community Outreach, Betty Lacey; Cultural Arts, Norma Vineyard; Public Relations, Mary Ann Rohl; International, Pat Varvel; and Family Issues, Betty Lacey.

Members meet on the third Friday of every month. The year began with a picnic and planning session at Homer Lake in September. The October meeting was hosted by Virginia Baird at her home.

Looking ahead to Homer's Sesquicentennial in 2005, the group has planned to make a quilt for that event. The quilt has been co-ordinated by Betty Lacey, and members meet November 16 at the Presbyterian Church to begin work on it. Homemakers decorated a Christmas tree on Dec. 4 at the Village Hall for the Christmas tree display there. In December they enjoyed a trip to Amishland in Tuscola.

Lessons to be presented this year are "New Definition of Leadership", "Selection, Planting and Care of Hardy Bulbs", "New Friends, but Keep the Old", "Salads", "Digital Economy", "What to Do with Stuff", and "Environmentally Friendly Gardens".

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# Homer Historical Society

The Homer Historical Society building is now open Sunday and Thursday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. each week.

They hold their meetings at the Historical Society, 107 N. Main on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Their last meeting had a program being "Show and Tell" where each member brought an item and told something about it. Charlie & Dennis Hubert from Second Hand Rose were there to share what they knew about the items. The board furnished a soup supper before the meeting.

The Historical Society gave the Tiger Cubs a tour on Jan. 8th. Anyone wishing to have his or her class or organization take a tour, please contact the Society at least one week in advance. Thank you.

Members have been busy working on their book that will come out in the year 2005. They are in need of some help from the Homer residents.

1. They would like to know if anyone could help them in identifying people; buildings; and home

and business inertial that are in some old photos. If you are interested in helping them out, please contact Molly Shoaf, Ray Cunningham, or Becky Smith.

2. They also need your information, family stores or photos you have about the Railroad or Interurban. They can scan your photos and return them promptly. Please contact Bill and Pat Butler or Becky Smith if you have anything you would share with them.

3. School pictures of any year are also needed. If you have a class photo, picture of any school event, etc. that you would share, please contact Carmen Strawser or Becky Smith.

4. They are compiling Family Genealogies for the museum. If you have done one or would like to start on yours, please contact Bill or Pat Butler.

They have many items for sale at the museum: Cook Book, Post Cards, Note Cards, and Old Year Books. Please stop by any Sunday or Thursday afternoon.

# Homer Library News

On January 9, 2002, the library gave a gift to the children and teachers of the kindergarten through third grades at the Homer school. Four hundred books, one hundred per grade, were donated by the Coca-Cola Corporation, through the Reading is Fundamental Foundation and the Homer Library. Each of the four Classroom Collections is on a rolling cart, so that it may be moved between the two classes of each grade. Several library board members spent hours preparing the books for use by the children. These books cover a lot of topics, and are available for the children to read in the classroom or to take home.

They are not textbooks, but are intended to encourage children to read, and to enjoy reading. Whenever you drink a Coke or some other Coca-Cola product, think of their gift to our local children.

Chris' Quick Pick: If you have ever watched the musical, Les Miserables, either on the stage or on video, and wondered what was happening, we can help. A new version of the novel, adapted for present day language and understanding, is available. Jim Reimann's paraphrase of Victor Hugo's classic, is a quick read.

## Peace Meal News

# *Giving Tree Earns \$665*

The Peace Meal would like to thank everyone for their wonderful donations to our Giving Tree. We raised \$665 toward our goal. THANK YOU!

Peace Meal is a Nutrition Program for ALL seniors 60+. We serve a hot full course lunch, Mon.-Fri. Boxed meals for the weekends are also available. We deliver meals to the seniors who are unable to get out on their own. We ask for a donation of \$2.50 (\$2.75 home-bound) per meal.

This is a wonderful program, not only for the nutrition, but for the socialization. We meet at 11:15 each

afternoon, with lunch served at 11:30. We have one special day a month to celebrate birthdays.

The program is a success due to all of the volunteers in the community. We have a great staff of volunteers who do everything from serving, cleaning up, delivering meals, and much, much more!

If you would like more information on the program or our fund raiser, or would like to make a reservation for lunch please call Sharon Jeffers at 896-2121 or 896-2668.

If you would like to make a donation—please send it to Peace Meal, 101 N. Main, Homer IL 61849.

# Town Meeting

“Should the Village of Homer, Illinois, construct and maintain a mandatory sanitary sewer system at an estimated current cost of \$5.6 million, financed by grants of \$2.7 million and a 40 year repayment loan of \$3.9 million, at an estimated current cost per household of \$33.50 per month for debt service, plus a user fee averaging \$16.00 for a household using 6000 gallons of water per month?”

Be at the meeting  
**February 11**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
to discuss this  
advisory referendum





# Forest Preserve District Upcoming Events



## Nature Balance and Power

**April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Join us for an opportunity to enjoy nature while engaging in a series of breathing and stretching exercises. Each week we will visit a different natural area at the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve. The cost is \$20. Register by April 4. Please bring an exercise mat to use at class.

## Earth Day Youth Bird Count

**April 20, 8:30-11:30 a.m.**

Calling all 7-12 year olds! Join the Champaign Audubon Society and Champaign County Forest Preserve as we hit the trails at the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve in search of our feathered friends. Snacks and prizes will be awarded to all participants. Register by April 12. Individuals and groups are welcome! This event is FREE!

## Project WET/Project WILD Aquatic

This free one-day workshop will present activities from K-12 curriculum guides that center around aquatic wildlife and water issues. Each participant will receive the guides FREE! Teachers can earn 7.5 CPDUs. Workshop location: Salt Fork River Forest Preserve on March 1 and again on March 2 from 8:15-4:00 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Environmental Education Association of IL (EEAI). Choose one of the days and register by Feb. 1.

## Spring Fling - March 20, 2002

Calling all educators to join in this EEAI sponsored event to discover valuable resources available! This free event will take place at the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve from 10-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Attention teachers: substitute reimbursement (up to \$75) to the first two teachers to register. Teachers can earn 4.5 CPDUs. Register by March 13.

## Illinois Ecosystem Investigations

Join area scientists as they present on current research. Each session includes an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor hands-on extension. All

programs are held at the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve from 6-8 p.m. Two CPDUs can be gained at each session for a total of eight CPDUs. Teachers and the general public are encouraged to attend! Register by March 26.

April 2 - Illinois Wildlife, Pat Brown.

April 9 - Illinois Critical Trends, Steve Bailey

April 16 - Illinois Birds, Jeffrey Brawn

April 23 - Illinois Rivers, Marc Miller

## Our Champaign County Environment

**June 10-12, 2002**

Join us for this workshop at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve as we explore the history, current trends, and future outlook for Champaign County's natural resources. A multi-disciplinary approach incorporating hands-on field experiences will occur as you camp out for two nights. Come learn about the Illini Indians, our prairie legacy, outdoor skills, and exotics in Illinois, our forest resources, and the night sky. Participate in owl prowl and a canoe journey back in time. All participants will receive a resource kit to use in the classroom. Teachers can earn CPDUs. This workshop is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Champaign County. Optional day: Project Learning Tree/Wild. Registration began January 16.

## Project Learning Tree/Project Wild

**June 21, 2002**

This free one-day workshop at the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve will present activities from K-2 curriculum guides that center around forest and wildlife issues. Each participant will receive the guides FREE! Teachers can earn 7.5 CPDUs. Time: 8:15-4 p.m. Register by May 17.

This DNR Conservation 2000 Headwaters Ecosystem sponsored workshop will teach native plant propagation and habitat restoration to educators. Teachers can earn CPDUs. Call Natural Resources at 217/586-4389 for more information.

To register for any of these events or for more information, call the Environmental Education Department at 217/896-2455.

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# Homer Youth League Board

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Too early for summer ball? Not for the Homer Youth League.

Remember, to be good at school or sports it takes practice and involvement.

The H.Y.L. is meeting the first Monday of each month so anyone who is interested in helping us and being a part of the youth in Homer may come to the meetings. We are having a throwing seminar at the Homer gym on February 4th at 6:30 p.m. All who are interested may attend.

This program is designed to help children (girls and boys) to get the mechanics of throwing correct so they

have less risk of shoulder and arm injury, and it may increase the throwing speed and distance. The training is good for pitching both baseballs and softballs. We at the H.Y.L. hope that all of the kids can be enthusiastic about this training and that this will improve our youth softball and baseball programs. Late winter or early spring we anticipate having a batting camp for girls and boys with a new program that we have purchased.

Thank you all for your support in the Homer community.

Dale Katterhenry

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# Homer Youth Basketball

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Homer Youth Basketball came to Homer in January 2002. The Homer Rec. Board is sponsoring the program.

Homer Youth Basketball is for girls and boys K-5 who go to school in the Heritage School District. The program is focused on the proper instruction both physically and mentally to the fundamental skills required to play basketball. The program is also focused on having fun and learning good sportsmanship. No one will be a loser or feel as if they are. Our kids will all be winners.

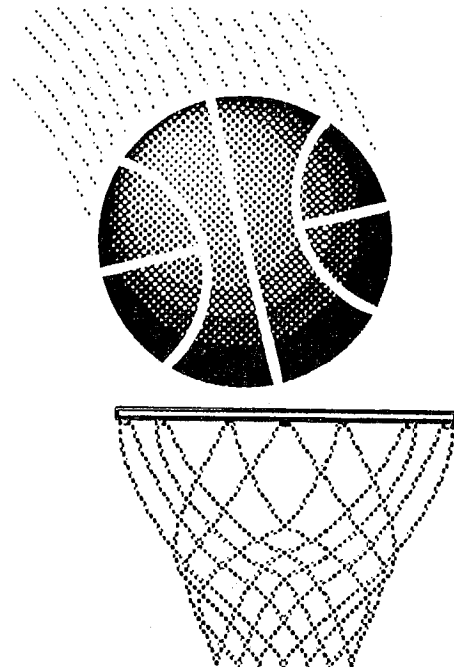
The program runs for 13 weeks with practice, games, and, on the 13th week, an award ceremony. It's great fun for all the kids.

Registration was held at the Heritage Elementary School on Dec. 7, 2001 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The fee was \$35.00 per child including registration and a jersey.

The Homer Rec Board president, Jan Hilpiper, presents the program. Mrs. Hilpiper has previous experience in coaching basketball at the Heritage Elementary School when she brought the program in from the YMCA. Mrs. Hilpiper is also using volunteer

coaches.

For more info please call her at 217-896-2064, e-mail [JLHILPIPRE1@aol.com](mailto:JLHILPIPRE1@aol.com) or write her at 114 S. Ellen, Homer.



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# Homer Church News

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## A Thought For The Day

We see the slogan, "United We Stand" these days telling others that through unity we are a stronger nation; that only by working together for the common good can our nation face up to all of those who oppose freedom and people's rights. This is a laudable and worthy goal. How much it is practiced in the day-to-day lives of the typical American can only be wondered.

Consider another slogan and another posture, one many Christians might consider more helpful. It is "United We Kneel". Some years ago three people confessed Christ as their Savior by joining with a congregation: one was a federal judge, one a bus driver, and the other a maintenance worker. This led the pastor to observe that the ground at the foot of the cross was

even. I have been wondering if Christians can achieve a degree of unity by kneeling in prayer, along and with others to this same God and savior.

I imagine it would be difficult to kneel before the Lord, then keep ourselves apart from other Christians. It may or may not include organizational unity, but a unity born of God's Spirit.

We worship separately, we witness separately. Is this God's intention? The bottom line is it is time to provide a united form of faith and trust in one another. THAT begins with "United We Kneel". When Jesus prayed to His Father for us he said that they may be one even as You and I are one.

Jim Swathwood, Lay Pastor  
Homer Presbyterian Church

## *Wright Studying In England*

Haley Wright, daughter of Kevin and Kristie Wright of Homer, is spending a semester of study abroad in London, England.

Haley's studies in London are through the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES). IES encourages its students to participate in the culture of their host country with both school and independent trips to tourist areas, plays and travel to other nearby countries.

Haley will also be an Intern at the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development located in the U.S. Embassy. Her duties include updating or writing International Market Insights which takes information from Eastern European industries and puts it in a format U.S. companies can understand.

Haley is a junior at Millikin University in Decatur, IL, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Accounting.

## —Homer Lighting Contest—

The Homer Rec. Board went around on the night of Dec. 15th and judged the beautifully decorated houses that had entered the contest. This was a very hard contest and very hard to decide. We saw a lot of different themes and a lot of patriotic spirit throughout the town. I can say that Homer looked great LIT UP. We

hope next year that more will enter.

The winners of the 2001 Lighting Contest are Harold and Sue Reed and Connie and Robert McGill, 1st Place; Becky Smith and Carmen Strawser, 2nd Place; and Wendy and Dave Robertson and Greg and Brooke Knott, 3rd Place. Great job everyone!

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# Heritage Hawks

## Basketball

### Boys Basketball

Nov. 21—Salt Fork	55-44	(1-0)
Nov. 23—Oakwood	51-48	(2-0)
Nov. 23—Shiloh	56-62	(2-1)
Nov. 24—Kansas	50-57	(2-2)
Nov. 30—St. Joe-Ogden	52-68	(2-3)
Dec. 1—Georgetown	60-70	(2-4)
Dec. 7—Judah Christian	64-36	(3-4)
Dec. 27—Georgetown	64-62	(4-4)
Dec. 27—Shiloh	58-61	(4-5)
Dec. 28—Beecher	39-38	(5-5)
Dec. 28—Cerro Gordo	67-62	(6-5)
Dec. 29—Tuscola	49-71	(6-6)
Jan. 4—Tuscola	36-38	(6-7)
Jan. 8—Atwood-Hammond	37-57	(6-8)
Jan. 11—Villa Grove	39-46	(6-9)
Jan. 15—Cerro Gordo	66-54	(7-9)
Jan. 18—Bement	63-47	(8-9)
Jan. 19—Arthur	45-47 (OT)	(8-10)
Jan. 23—Niantic-Harristown	56-63	(8-11)
Jan. 29—Niantic-Harristown	77-55	(9-11)
Feb. 1—Shiloh	Home	
Feb. 2—Salt Fork	Home	
Feb. 5—Lovington	Away	
Feb. 8—Arcola	Away	
Feb. 9—Chrisman	Away	
Feb. 12—Oakland	Home	
Feb. 15—Arthur	Away	
Feb. 18-22—Regionals	TBA	

### Girls Basketball

Nov. 15—Oakwood	57-47	(1-0)
Nov. 19—Uni High	55-24	(2-0)
Nov. 20—St. Joe-Ogden	58-47	(3-0)
Nov. 26—Judah Christian	67-28	(4-0)
Dec. 1—Salt Fork,	42-67	(4-1)
Dec. 3—Villa Grove	59-32	(5-1)
Dec. 6—Tuscola	52-30	(6-1)
Dec. 8—Chrisman	53-31	(7-1)
Dec. 10—Atwood-Hammond	71-46	(8-1)
Dec. 14—Villa Grove	59-32	(9-1)
Dec. 15—Georgetown	63-39	(10-1)
Dec. 20—Niantic-Harristown	56-34	(11-1)
Dec. 21—Cerro Gordo	62-54	(12-1)
Dec. 26—Villa Grove	55-40	(13-1)
Dec. 26—Prairie Central	57-50	(14-1)
Dec. 27—Milford	61-32	(15-1)
Dec. 27—Bismarck	33-48	(15-2)
Dec. 29—Armstrong	61-49	(16-2)
Jan. 3—Bement	64-51	(17-2)
Jan. 5—Schlarman	61-56	(18-2)
Jan. 10—Shiloh	64-32	(19-2)
Jan. 14—Villa Grove	66-42	(20-2)
Jan. 17—Arcola	51-46	(21-2)
Jan. 19—Oakland	52-57	(21-3)
Jan. 24—Arcola	59-39	(22-3)
Jan. 28—Oakland	51-50	(23-3)
Jan. 31—Arthur	Home	
Feb. 4-8—Regionals	TBA	

Games start at 6:15,  
Tourney times TBA