

HOMER



News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Homer Fire Protection District

An Update

Most of us are aware that a new fire station is being constructed at the north edge of Homer. This project has been on the drawing board for several years and the need for additional space finally overturned the last remaining points of hesitation.

A project of this magnitude which affects a community will typically raise questions and prompt concerns. In view of this, *News & Views* went out seeking answers to some of our questions.

Q: Why is the new station necessary?

A: Space. As one firefighter put it: We're trying to put approximately 1820 square feet of equipment into approximately 1815 square feet of space. The department simply outgrew its present facility. Equipment, training, and services have greatly expanded over the last ten years and this trend is expected to continue. The department acknowledges a debt of gratitude to the citizens of Homer for their unwavering support of the department through these years. Without that support their growth and expansion of services would not have been possible.

The current main station building was built in 1951 and is of cinderblock construction, which, in itself, complicates

expansion. A few years ago taller doors were installed to accommodate today's larger fire apparatus. It was difficult even then to find a company to do the work on an older block building.

Q: What are added advantages of the new station?

A: Again space. The new station has five bays, a full kitchen, meeting room, radio room, and bathrooms, as well as a separate office for the fire officers and ESDA. The entire building is American Disabilities Act (ADA) approved. It would be nearly impossible to bring the old station up to code, and this is something that must be done.

It is a widely-held belief that in the very near future, volunteer fire departments that survive will have full time staff in the station at all times. We have prepared for this with room for sleeping, living and bathroom facilities upstairs. This area will not be finished at this time, but can easily be completed when needed.

In the extra bay space, we hope to soon house a 24-hour ambulance out of Champaign. Recent articles in the *News Gazette* have reported ongoing efforts to make this happen. This has been in the talking stage for over a year and it is

Page 3 please

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term expires 11/1/01

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896-2776, term expires 5/31/00

Kelly Vetter

896-2224, term expires 1/1/01

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term expires 11/1/01

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.

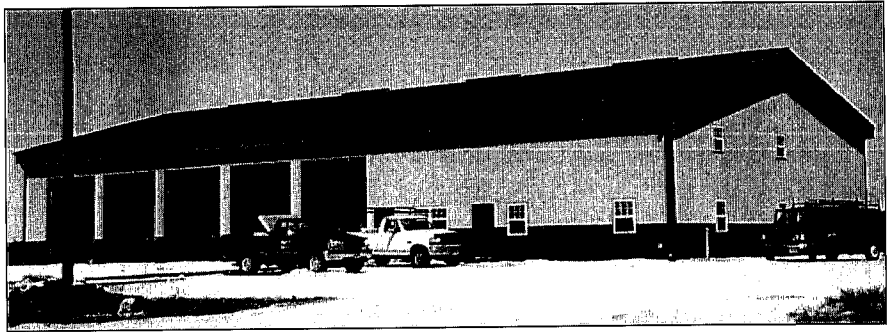
WIENKE'S SHOE REPAIR

122 S. Main Street
Homer, Illinois
896-2514

Your Red Wing agent

Fire District Update *Continued*

hoped that service will commence on August 1st of this year. It will be manned with a combination of Homer staff and staff from the ambulance service at all times. It will be a full Paramedic service, just as the ambulances that are now being used. The addition of this service to the community is something Homer firefighters have worked hard to accomplish. Early in the planning stage on the new building it was decided to plan space for this unit and its staff.



Q: What will happen to the two current fire stations?

A: The main station at 111 N. Main will be put up for bid sometime in the fall. Several parties have expressed interest in the facility, including new businesses. The South station located across from the Methodist Church on South Main will remain as it is. This station was built in 1978 to help cover the southern end of our district in the event of rail crossing blockage. The facility is still needed for that purpose, especially with increasing rail traffic.

Q: How was the site chosen?

A: The department had been unofficially looking for a new site for several years and many sites were discussed. Most did not truly suit their needs. Late last year talks began with J. Richard and Diane Freeman. When the dust settled, the Freemans had donated a full acre to the Homer Fire Protection District. The department is forever indebted to them for their generosity. Their support will benefit the entire district for generations to come. The next time we meet them on the street perhaps we should let them know that we, as a community, appreciate their good deed.

Q: What is this costing and how will it be paid for?

A: Bids were taken from three contractors. The low bid came from a local man, Jan Schacht of Diversified Construction. Total cost of building including parking, appliances, and fixtures is estimated at \$348,000. Many things will help pay for this: sale of the existing facility, government grants, CDs and other savings, and incoming tax money. It is assumed that an expenditure of this size will normally take approximately ten years to be paid in full. All monies will come from existing taxes and outside money. No increase in current taxes is necessary to pay for construction costs.

Q: When will the new station be done?

A: The department hopes it will be in service around the middle to end of July. The original estimate was August, but the contractor has been able to stay ahead of schedule so far. An Open House is intended after they are settled in, but no date has been set yet.

Editor's Note: The Homer Fire Department currently has 26 members and all are dedicated professionals. They are able to reach their goals only because of the community's caring and concern. The continued support is appreciated by all the firefighters—past, present and future!

To show a token of our appreciation to them, *News & Views* will start, with this issue, a series highlighting the department's volunteers with pictures and brief bio's on approximate three of them each issue.

Homer Recreation Board

Homer Celebration on the 3rd of July Homer's changing the July 4th celebration to Saturday the 3rd of July. You'll still find us down at the town park with the usual happenings and some added attractions. Come join us for the best fire works around, balloons rides, music, food and lots of family games. We'll let you in on more of the holiday attractions as the day draws near.

Volunteers Needed

We need some temporary volunteers for the 3rd of July. This year, we are going to cycle out the volunteers so that no one will work more than 2 hours at a time. We are hoping avoid burnout and you won't have to worry about being sequestered for the entire day. Please call Kate Vetter at 896-2224 to sign up for a 2 hour time slot for volunteering at Homer's Independence Day celebration! We'll see you there!

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LORI RUSHING
Operator Owner



Splinters from the Board

by STAN CATO
Homer Community Development Board President

The Homer Community Development Board is now working on the town park as our next project. We recently had a community garage sale for which all proceeds are in a fund for the upgrade of the town park. A special thanks to all residents who donated items for our garage sale. We raised in excess of \$400.00 for the park.

The community garage sale was a huge success to say the least. Most residents were quite pleased with the outcome of the sale. As you have probably already guessed we have started to plan for next years garage sale. We are going to do this as an annual event, hoping to make it bigger and better as each year goes by. If you have any suggestions for ways of improvement please contact a member of the board, or better yet come to a HCDB. meeting and tell us your ideas.

I would like to thank Norma Diel, Pat Varvel, Kelly Vetter, and Bobbie Gordon for their hard work and dedication to make the garage sale a success.

The park project can only be done with funds available, so if anyone or any civic organization wants to help with the funding please contact me at 896-2411. Too many times we go to businesses and organizations for financial help and most feel an obligation to help. We are not soliciting for this project. It is strictly a volunteer effort and we will use what funds we have to do the best we can to make the park a nice fun place to take the youngsters of Homer.

In my second term as president of the HCDB I am pleased with the progress we have made, and very proud of the people on the board who have worked to make it happen. Hopefully before the month of May is over we will have background music installed in the downtown area.

Do you like what we are doing? Want to help? We have openings on committees, so if you want to help on any certain project, please contact an HCDB member.

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

Homer Library News

Did you know that the Homer library is now open every weekday afternoon from 2 to 7:00 p.m.? We started summer hours on May 3rd to make the library more convenient to use. Saturday hours remain the same, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come in and check out our new books and videos. When the weather turns hot, find a shady spot to relax with a good book from the library and a tall glass of lemonade or iced tea.

Chris' Quick Pick: *The Greedy Hand* by Amity Shlaes. This important and very readable book details the inequities of our country's tax system and tells why it hurts the economy, businesses and the individual taxpayer. Warning: This book is not for the faint of heart. It will make you mad and could raise your blood pressure.

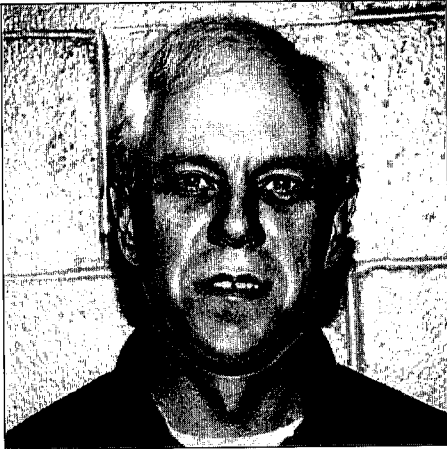
On May 10th, you may have seen groups of children walking from the school to the village hall, or back again. This was our last distribution of Reading is Fundamental books for the school year. Each child got to choose from a variety of age appropriate books. We are grateful to the Homer Legion Auxiliary for their recent donation to the RIF program. We provide books to the children three times each school year, for approximately 130 children in grades K through 5th, a total of about 450 books. The kick off for the Summer Reading Program is Tuesday, June 8th, at 10:30 a.m. Sheri Burns has planned an exciting summer for the children, and it begins on that day with the DePriest Puppets, a professional puppet show.

We would like to introduce our newest board member, Cathy Lance. Cathy was elected to a six year term in the April election. She fills the seat vacated by retiring member Leanne Lucas. Leanne has served the library well for the past six years, and the board and staff are grateful to her.

*It's a matter of
community pride
—Support Homer's
Businesses!*

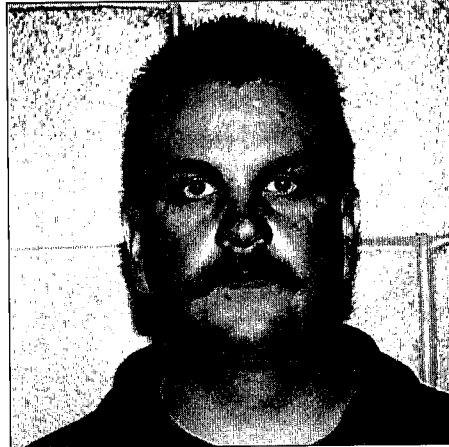
Saluting Homer's Volunteer Firefighters

—An Ongoing Series



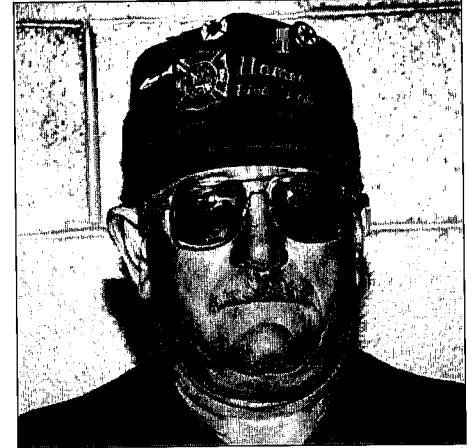
BUB MILLER

Bub has lived in the area for 17 years. His family includes his wife Bonnie and their six children, Devin, Chris, Joey, Ben, and Emilee. Bub had been with the fire department for 10 years and is a First Responder. When asked what drew him to fire service, he said he simply likes to help people. When not working for the Village of Homer, Bub likes football and basketball. He also stated he likes Homer because it is a *quiet town*.



TOM RUSHING

Tom is employed by the Urbana Fire Department and PRO Ambulance. He has been in the Homer area for 36 years and lives with his wife Rhonda and their three children, Joshua, 7th grade, Lacey, 6th grade and Emily, 3rd grade, all three in Heritage schools. Tom has served on the Homer Fire Department for 17 years and is an EMS L+. His special training includes Firefighter II, Paramedic, Pump ops (end) Pals, Ads, B+Ls. He appreciates that Homer is a quiet small town with good schools, great neighbors and friends.



BOB JONES

Bob has lived in the Homer area most of his life. He recently retired from the U.S. Postal Service. He and his wife Chris (manager of Ace Hardware) have one daughter, Kelly Lyn who graduated from SIU in Mechanical Engineering and works at Allison Transmission in Indianapolis. Bob has been a volunteer fireman for almost 25 years and has a rank of Fire Fighter - EMT-B-D. He has had extensive training in various areas and is always ready to serve the Homer residents in emergency situations. Bob is an avid hunter and fisherman.

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Dr. Mark Faught's Dental office building — 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 Kim Matthis at 896-2689 or Stan Cato at the Homer IGA. (No charge for this service.)

Homer Church News

HOMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 4 was a highlight of the church year as we again celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord. The hope and strength we receive in His victory over death and the grave is still being felt during this Easter season which climaxes in another special observance on May 23, when we believe God sent His Spirit to the Church at Pentecost the "birthday" of the Church. God changed the world forever and countless lives as well, as He still does.

Did you receive the video, "Jesus"? Did you gain from it? If not, tell someone in the HCC churches, if so tell others. Share it! Your comments are encouraged. We are offering communion monthly to residents of the Champaign County Nursing Home. We also visit and participate in their programs, particularly on Thursdays at 9:40 a.m. Come and be with us!

As graduation approaches, consider giving the graduate a gift that will inspire and challenge them towards spiritual concerns as they plan for their future. A Bible or some other book might make the difference in their lives.

Plans did not materialize as hoped regarding the National Day of Prayer on May 6th, we hope to do better as we near the Fourth of July.

An adult class meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship at 10:00 a.m. You are welcome. If we do not preach and practice God's love tell US; if we do, tell others.

—*Jim Swathwood Lay Pastor*

HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING

JULY 3RD WORSHIP SERVICE — The Homer Churches Cooperating will be sponsoring a Community Worship Service on Saturday, July 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the Homer Park. Churches involved with the Homer Churches Cooperating are: Homer Church of Christ, Homer United Methodist, Homer Presbyterian and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. Please bring lawn chairs and enjoy a short meditation and celebrate the 4th of July with us. There will not be a community worship service on the 4th.

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Bill Brannock

Michelle Drake

Mary Knutson

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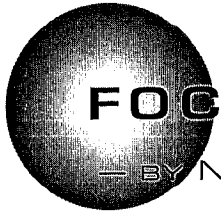
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FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— BY NAOMI ROBERTS

ALLEN'S FARM QUALITY MEATS

The slaughterhouse at Allen's Meats is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but the killing cannot begin until the government inspectors arrive. Once the inspectors arrive, Ron Allen, owner and operator of Allen's Farm Quality Meats, begins the butchering process. Allen kills a combination of approximately fourteen hogs and cows a week. Some of the kill are custom orders from local farmers. The rest are sold retail, either in bulk orders, or smaller cuts through the case in the store.

Once the animals are killed, they are hung in a carcass coller. Beef hangs approximately ten days before it is butchered. While the carcass hangs, the enzymes change which causes tenderization to occur in the meat. hogs can be butchered the next day.

Allen's Farm Quality Meats must adhere to State and Federal Regulations at all times. Size of the meat processing facility has no bearing on the regulations. Allen must follow the same rules as a large meat processing plant. One of the regulations Allen must follow is the nightly breakdown of all machines. The machines used to slice, saw, or cut meat must be taken apart and cleaned. Allen has an employee to come in at night and do this. Then each morning, before anything can be cut, Allen inspects all the machines, as well as the processing room, wash room, cooking room, carcass cooler, kill floor, cure cooler, smokehouse, dry storage area, and hand washing sinks. If any deficiency is found, Allen must notate on a government Pre-Op Sanitation Report what the condition and deficiency is and also the corrective action taken. This daily record is kept on file for government inspectors.

Because of the recent E-Coli bacteria scare, Allen also does periodic checks for it. The process involves taking a swipe of the hog carcass in three places. The samples must then be sent off to be checked.

Even with all the state and federal regulations, inspectors



Photos by Jim Alred, Homer, IL



still make unannounced spot checks. Although the checks and regulations are sometimes aggravating, especially when Allen is extremely busy, he doesn't worry because he is ready. The regulations are also a benefit to Allen's customers, because not only is the beef and pork home grown, the meat also passes all health and safety inspections.

Allen has three full-time employees and three part-time employees. He has owned and operated the business for the past twelve years. The business is open six days a week, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Allen's Farm Quality Meats offers a fine selection of chops, steaks, hamburger, bacon, ribs, and about anything you need for the grill or the freezer. Stop by and visit. Allen would love to chat with you and he is more than happy to offer advice on special cuts or help you choose the right meat for the special dinner you're planning. Allen can also be reached at 896-2532.

Does Your Heart Belong to Daddy?

Our aisles are filled with gifts galore to make this Father's Day special for all of the fathers on your list. Give a gift from the heart!



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Homer Historical Society

If you did not attend the May meeting of the Homer Historical Society you missed an excellent program. In fact, if you haven't attended one of our meetings this year you have missed both good programs and good food. Two programs, in particular, come to mind — If you ever have the opportunity to hear Nancy Reed about her barns and/or any or all of the "Ten Sisters," make every effort to be there. The Ten Waggoner Sisters, originally from down around Paradise, Illinois, (south of Mattoon), are to be featured in the *Family Circle Magazine* this coming autumn. We of the Homer Historical Society can say we saw them before their magazine fame. Thank you, Ruth!

Now we come to some more good food. Our annual "Picnic in the Park" will be Sunday, June 6th at 12 Noon at the Homer Village Park pavilion. Meat and drinks are furnished by the society. You need to bring your table service and a dish full of your specialty to be enjoyed by all. The picnic is for anyone and their families wishing to become a member(s), plus, of course, our already members. If you are interested in joining us, please call Gene at 896-2004 or Marian at 896-2254 to let us know who and how many will attend the picnic so we have enough meat and drinks.

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.

Sign keepers for June 1999 are

D. Driscoll 896-2434

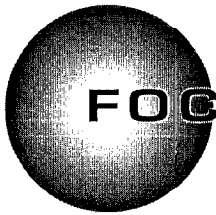
W. Lutz 896-2498

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FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

THE GAMERS

The British are coming! As well as the Virginians, Californians, South Africans, Coloradans, Ohioans and Germans. In fact, in the fall of each year, for the last nine years, people from all over the world have descended upon a little building on West Fourth Street in Homer for four days with one thing on their minds. They come to get out their dice, their maps and their rule books and change the course of history. Yes, these folks come to Homer each and every year just to play military history wargames!

For those of you that have wondered what goes on in that little Quonset hut at 500 West Fourth Street, with the name *The Gamers, Inc* out front, it is very simple. Dean Essig and his wife Sara, (along with two faithful employees) design, produce and sell some of the best military history games in the world. The world has noticed and people from every continent enjoy buying games from *The Gamers*.

Starting out in their living room with an idea and a game design, Dean and Sara have built a small business that has grown into a mail order bonanza. With a customer list of over 7500 (and growing each and every day) *The Gamers* supplies the world with new quality military history wargames every year. With series on the Civil War and Napoleon, Standard, Operational, and Tactical Combat, *The Gamers* have provided entertainment and learning for many. The 39" game from *The Gamers* will be released April 1, 1999 and they are already taking orders for it. Along with the games, *The Gamers* produces a quarterly magazine "*Operations- The War gaming Journal*." Customers of *The Gamers* subscribe to the magazine to get the latest news on analysis, strategy and upcoming games. They also look forward each year to the issue dealing with *The Gamers* retreat, affectionately dubbed "HomerCon."

People who play wargames enjoy going to gaming conventions and while there are many to choose from, HomerCon has become a favorite with many. In 1999, HomerCon will take place from September 14th through 16th. The retreat is free- there are no sign-up fees and anyone is welcome. People come to play wargames and while most of the games played are from *The Gamers*, that is not a requirement. Doctors, lawyers, postal workers, tradesmen, salesmen are all equal when they get out their maps and coun-



ters. Some are ex-military, some are history buffs. All come to play games, meet new gamers and enjoy the weekend. Most will show up on Thursday, and play until late into the night. They will be back early in the morning on Friday, grateful for the coffee.

Since the closest motels are in Champaign-Urbana and Danville, most of the gamers carpool in from motels in those cities. Last year, there were about 60 out of town (state, country) visitors. If there were an interest in the community, Sara feels that many of the gamers would be willing to rent a room for the weekend here in Homer. If you would be interested in renting a room, contact Sara at 896-2145. She will get in touch with the visitors and let them know the option is available.

Shirley Cromwell and Sandi Hire, *The Gamers* two employees, enjoy having folks come for the retreat. While it gets hectic, it is nice being able to put a face with a name and voice from the telephone. Last year it was exciting to meet three fellows from South Africa. They won the door prize for coming the farthest to the retreat. It is likely they will win again this year as they have already made plans to be here in September.

If you have any questions about *The Gamers*, HomerCon or any of the games they sell, you can contact *The Gamers* at 896-2145, stop in and take a "tour" or check out their website at www.tgamers.com. If you know of any activities going on during the weekend of HomerCon that the visitors might be interested in let *The Gamers* know.

The retreat will be an exciting time for *The Gamers* and their customers, and can be an exciting time for the community as well. During the third weekend in September, if you see someone at the grocery store or gas station you don't know, smile and say hello. You may be surprised with a "Bonjour" in return.

Homer American Legion Auxiliary News

Homer Unit #290 held their regular meeting at the post home on May 10th. Fifteen members were present. President Sandy Griffin thanked everyone for coming.

Smorgasbord Committee Chair, Cathy Lance, handed out the soliciting lists for the annual Smorgasbord following the Memorial Day Services at the GAR Cemetery. Be ready to donate food items when called. This is our main fund raiser for the year. She announced that flyers are being posted.

Poppy Chairman, Lauri Umbarger, announced that Poppy Distribution will be on May 21st and 22nd from 6:00 a.m. - Noon. The money from this is used for the different Veterans programs and for donations to the Veterans at the Danville Veterans Hospital.

The Nominating Committee announced the slate of officers for 1999-2000. They are:

President	Lauri Umbarger
First Vice President	Deb Happ
Second Vice President	Tammy Hodgeson
Treasurer	Susan Burton
Historian	Karla Carter
Chaplain	Mary Jane Burton
Sgt.-at-Arms	Sandy Griffin
Secretary	Lori Rushing

Installation will be held at the June meeting.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, Evelyn Cope, reported that the end of the year credit at Danville VA Hospital was \$3031.65. She thanked everyone for the donations throughout the year.

Members reported 96 volunteer hours for April and May.

The unit will be awarding two \$250 scholarships again this year to a Heritage High School Senior who is continuing their education. Committee Chair, Lauri Umbarger reported

receiving 7 applications for this scholarship.

We voted to send four delegates to Illini Girls State which is held at Eastern Illinois University, June 20-26. This years delegates are Hillary McDuffie, Shawna Lindsey, Ann Rivera-Pingleton, and Angie Pitts. The years alternates are Sona Patel, Amy Scott, and Lauren McDaniel.



Junior Advisor, Deb Happ, reported that the Juniors will be taking care of the flowers at the Historical Society again this year. They will be planting May 15 & 16. They then will take turns weeding over the summer. They will be marching with the Legion and Auxiliary on Memorial Day for the program at the cemetery. They will also be helping at the Smorgasbord Dinner.

The unit donated \$50 each to Heritage S.A.D.D. and Homer Community Library RIF program from the proceeds from the Valentine's Dance.

We received a new member, Cathy Rouse. Welcome Cathy. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to attend our meetings or contact any member for an application. Requirements for becoming a member are:

You must be the wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, step-mother, step-sister, step-daughter, step-granddaughter, or step-great granddaughter of a Veteran that served during one of the following periods: **WWI** (April 6, 1917 -Nov. 11, 1918); **WWII** (Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946); **Korea** (June 25, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955); **Vietnam** (Feb. 28, 1961-May 7, 1975); **Grenada and Lebanon** (Aug. 24, 1982-July 31, 1984); **Persian Gulf** (Dec. 20, 1989-Aug. 2, 1990), and Aug. 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities (Persian Gulf). If the person that you are eligible through is still living, they must be a member of a Legion post. If they are deceased, they only need to have served during the previous times.

If you are eligible and would like some information on membership, please feel free to attend a meeting or contact a member. All are welcome! Our work in supporting our Veterans is very important and we need YOU!



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Homer Household

by Norma Diel



SPRINGTIME POTATO SALAD

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4 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup chopped sweet pickles
1/3 cup chopped onion
1/3 cup chopped radishes
1/2 cup mayonnaise
3 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. vinegar
1 tbsp. milk
1-1/2 tsp. prepared mustard
1/2 tsp. Salt

In a bowl, combine potatoes, eggs, celery, pickles, onion, and radishes. In another bowl, combine mayonnaise, sugar, vinegar, milk, mustard and salt. Mix well. Pour over potato mixture, stir to coat. Chill. Sprinkle with paprika if desired. 8-10 servings.

EASY DEEP DISH PIZZA

1 lb. sausage or hamburger
1/2 cup chopped onion
Fry together and drain well
Add: 1 15 oz. can pizza sauce
1 tbsp. Bisquick
Stir and heat to boiling. Boil 1 minute. Pour into 9x12 pan.
Sprinkle with 1 cup Mozzarella cheese (grated)
Beat together:
1 cup Bisquick
2 eggs
1 cup milk
Batter will be thin. Pour over cheese. Bake 20 min. 450 degrees

COMPANY FRENCH TOAST

1/2 cup oleo
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
12 slices bread
5 eggs
1-1/2 cup milk
Melt oleo in 9x13 pan. Stir in brown sugar and cinnamon. Place slices of bread in double layers over topping. Beat eggs and milk and pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Uncover and bake 350 degrees 45 min. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Homer Youth League

Mid-May through mid-July, more than 100 Homer youngsters and their parents and coaches take to the ball diamonds as part of the Youth League program. Trophies in the case in the village hall and pictures on the Lions Club calendars tell of their success in previous years.

Teams covering ages four through mid-teens in seven divisions are playing ball this summer in the Central Vermilion Little League (CVLL). Homer boys' teams play each other as well as teams from communities such as Ogden, Royal, Oakwood, and Fithian. Boys' teams include T-Ball for the youngest, two regular PeeWee teams and one coach-pitched team, Farm League, Little League and Junior Pony. The girls play in four softball divisions, Senior, Junior, "A," and "B," — seniors being the oldest and "B" being the youngest.

The success of the Youth League is due to a dedicated group of parents and other Homer residents who volunteer a great deal of their time as members of the youth league board. They hold fundraisers, maintain the ball diamonds, run the concession stand, and see that umpires, coaches, equipment, uniforms, lighting for the larger field, and all the other details of the summer program are taken care of. Future plans call for an equipment building. This will free up more room in the concession stand.

Major fund-raisers throughout the year include food sales at community events such as the recent village wide garage sales and past Krazy Daze. The concession stand provides an increased variety of food at the games. Signs on the fencing at the ball fields are paid for by local business. Some sponsor individual teams. Local organizations and the village make donations to the youth league. All these efforts make possible a summer of fun and good competition for local youths.

Have a wonderful summer, boys and girls!

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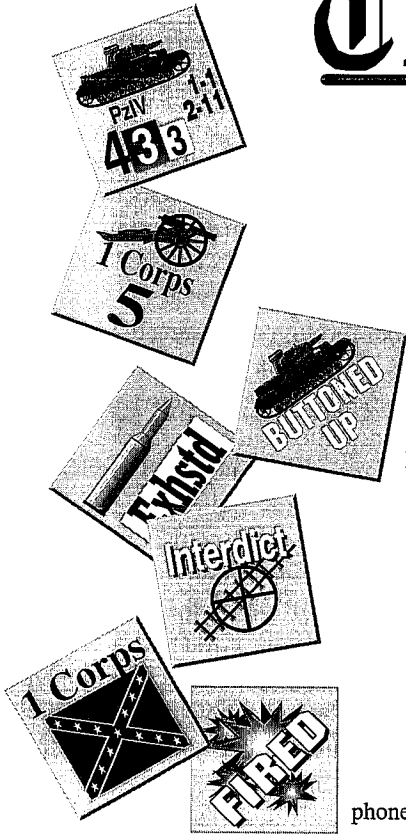
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