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# VILLAGE OF HOMER NEWS

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Volume 1, Issue 1

May/June 2005

## Housing Rehabilitation Grant & Loan Programs

**Village of Homer Residents May be Eligible  
for a Variety of Housing Programs**

Village of Homer Residents may qualify for several housing programs that are administered by USDA Rural Development, the Calhoun County Community Action Agency and Calhoun County Community Development. Eligibility for the programs varies depending upon income, age and home ownership. The programs can provide for the following:

- May be used for repairs and improvements that will improve health and safety hazards.
- To repair or remodel dwellings to make them more accessible and usable for household members with disabilities.

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## DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION AND LANDSCAPING PLAN

**Watch for Public Meetings to Gain Your Input**

The Village approximately 2 ½ years ago completed the Village of Homer Small Town Design Initiative conducted by Michigan State University. The Homer Small Town Design Initiative included a Visioning Process that inventoried the Homer Community's desires and attitudes about existing conditions and desired conditions within the next 5 to 10 years. The Plan provided examples of how the streetscape and downtown businesses can be modified to further enhance the image of downtown.



*Village of Homer Downtown Mainstreet*

### ***The Next Step***

The Village of Homer is in the process of writing a grant application and soliciting a Request for Proposal document (RFP) from engineering firms to complete the design of the Downtown Landscaping and Beautification Project. Implementation of the project will be contingent

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- For weatherization projects that will help with energy conservation and save on utility costs.

The Village of Homer has additional information regarding these programs and contact information. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Village Hall at (517)568-4321



HOMER

## HISTORICAL DISTRICT

Is your home in it?

Did you know that on July 12, 1996 approximately 132 buildings within the Village of Homer were placed on the National Register of Historic Places? In January 1999, two amendatory laws were passed that authorize a new tax credit program in the State of Michigan for rehabilitation projects. Although a personal residence doesn't qualify for a federal tax credit it may qualify for a 25% State Tax Credit if the following apply:

- The home to be rehabilitated must be listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places.
- All project work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- Applicants must apply to the State.
- Qualified rehabilitation expenditures must be equal to or greater than 10% of the State Equalized Value (SEV) of the Property.
- If the property is sold within five (5) years the State can reclaim the credit.

The boundaries of the historic district generally include the downtown (the Village of Homer's Historic Core and Original Plat) and Several Blocks to the South, East and West. If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Village Hall.



## A Message from Jerry Stonebraker, Village President

It has been over 10 years since the Village sent out a newsletter and we thought we would give it another try! The Village Council and Staff have been very busy this year in an effort to move forward several projects that we think will be of benefit to the Homer Community. As described within the newsletter I am pleased that we are providing you with more information regarding possible housing grant and tax credit opportunities, that the Small Town Downtown Design Initiative is progressing, the pond reclamation project is under contract and due to several organizational changes we now have Police Protection 24 hours a day and 7 days per week (24/7). We know we have more work to do, but we think we are on track. If we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Village Offices (517)568-4321, a Village Council Member, or myself. Your support of the Village of Homer is greatly appreciated.

Jerry Stonebraker, Village President

## POLICE DEPARTMENT ON 24/7.

The Village Council this past November adopted the 2004-2005 Village of Homer Goals and Objectives Mission Statement. Goal # 4 Staffing states the following: ***Ensure Adequate Staffing Levels to Meet Present and Future Needs.*** A top priority this year was to increase the staffing levels within the Police Department in order that the Village would have an officer on duty at all times of the day. Previously when there was a gap the Village relied on mutual assistance from the County Police Department. This change was made possible due to several budget changes and staff reallocation.

## VILLAGE COUNCIL ADOPTS GOALS

The Village Council and Department Heads participated in a Goal Setting Session this past November. As a result of the project the Village Council Adopted the Village of Homer 2004-2005 Goals and Objectives Mission Statement. The resolution adopting the document states in part "...The Village Council hereby formally adopts the following Village-Wide Goals and Objectives for 2004-2005 to ensure the quality of life for the Citizens of Homer, to enhance and protect the environment, to pursue funding opportunities, to further economic development activity, retain the beautiful park system which the residents of Homer enjoy and to serve as a guide for the allocation of resources and direction of Village activities. A summary of the Goals follows:

Goal 1: Industrial Development: Promote the retention, expansion and attraction of Industry within the Village of Homer.

Goal 2: Downtown Development: Preserve the economic Vitality of the Downtown.

Goal 3: Residential: Encourage the development of new housing and the rehabilitation of existing housing within the Village of Homer.

Goal 4: Staffing: Ensure adequate staffing levels to meet present and future needs.

Goal 5: Equipment: Ensure that equipment is operable and safe to operate.

upon successfully obtaining a State Grant that may fund up to 80% of the project costs.

The Project is expected to include historic period lighting, brick sidewalk installation, curb ramps, trees, street furniture including bike racks, permanent and temporary landscaping, improvement to electrical and other utilities, conduit for fiber optics, readiness for wireless technology, upgrades to alleys, streets and municipal parking lots and a connection(s) to the pedestrian/bike path park system.

The successful Firm will be expected to develop 3 or more conceptual designs, including color and cost estimates, and to present the same to the Public as part of the Citizen Participation Process. Upon completion of the Citizen Participation Process a final design will be selected and a grant application(s) submitted. It is our hope that you will participate. Please watch the Cable Channel and the Homer Index for Public Hearing Notices expected later this summer or early fall.



## Cable Franchise Renewal Process

Millennium Digital Media-the Cable Provider, has requested the Village of Homer to commence the Cable Franchise Renewal Process pursuant to Section 626 of the Cable Act.

Pursuant to the Act the Village will be identifying the future cable-related community needs and interests and reviewing the performance of the Cable Operator during the current franchise term.

If you have any comments about either, please contact the Village Offices no later than Thursday, June 30, 2005.

## WWTP Pond Reclamation Project

The Village Council at their April 4, 2005 Meeting approved a contract with Infrastructure Alternatives to proceed with the cleaning of Lagoon # 1 of the Wastewater Treatment Plant System. The scope of the work involves the removal and dewatering of approximately 22,500 cubic yards or 7.4 million gallons of sludge at an estimated cost of \$342,400. The dredging and removal of the solids will take approximately 12 months. The sludge wasn't able to be land applied due to a heavy metals concentration. This is a project that commenced approximately 1999-2000 and will be funded primarily through the Sewer Fund.

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Village Council: Jerry Stonebraker, President, Chris Miller, Vice President, Jewell Burkwal, Brent Michael, Jeffrey Sherman, Kelly Sullivan and Mike Warner.

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George Strand, Village Manager, Lea Anne Nowlin, Village Clerk-Treasurer, Don Drumm, Director of Public Works-Utilities, and John Kirkbride, Chief of Police.

\* William Isaac Burkwal, Fire Chief and Sandra VanWert, Librarian who work with the Fire Board and Library Board respectively.

Newsletter Produced by Village Manager's Office.



## VILLAGE SUMMARY

### **Linear Park Extension:** This

Summer the pedestrian/bike path will be extended on both sides of 24 1/2 Mile Road from M Drive South to a point just North of M-60. This project is being funded by the Village and Calhoun County Community Development

**Police Vehicle:** The Police Department purchased a new SUV police car. This type of vehicle is becoming more common due to the space and resale value. The Police Vehicles are replaced every 4 years with over 100,000 miles.

**Department of Public Works:** Purchases a new (used) 1994 Street Sweeper for \$15,000.

**Web Site:** The Village and Chamber of Commerce have been adding to the Village of Homer Website at [homer.mich.com](http://homer.mich.com). The Village information on the website is sponsored by George J. Petredean and provided by Albion Design.

**Voice Mail:** The Village Offices now have voice mail. Now you can leave a message when we are gone or after hours.

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