



# Homer Township Public Library District

*Celebrating 20 Years of Community Service*

Winter 2003

<http://www.homerlibrary.org>

## SIX GRANTS AWARDED!

We are pleased to announce that all six new Library Services and Technology grants submitted this fall to the Illinois State Library have been funded for fiscal year 2003. We are grateful to the Illinois State Library and Illinois State Librarian Jesse White, for providing grant opportunities which help the Library to continue to provide the best for its patrons. These recent grant awards bring in more than \$75,000 for programs, equipment, and training to benefit our community. Grant descriptions include:

**Be an Informed Citizen! (\$59,535)** This grant funds a series of *Know Your Government* programs, establishes a community Web site, and funds an information kiosk which will be placed off-site for 24/7 use by the residents.

**Focus on the Community (\$4,900)** This grant funds a plan to help inform and clarify what we can provide to the community and promote our value to you.

**Leadership Training (\$4,900)** This grant provides training for staff to learn how best to provide services and empower users.

**Opportunity Knocks in Several Languages @ Homer Township Library (\$2,000)** This grant provides materials to increase the library's services to residents for whom English is a second language. With more than 11% of the township's population speaking a language other than English at home, this funding will allow the library to develop a core collection of materials in the Polish and Spanish languages, supporting more community members than ever before.

**Winter Reading Club and Author Visit @ Homer Township Library (\$2,000)** This grant provided the Library's new Winter Reading Club with a renowned children's author program that featured Jim Aylesworth on February 13 at 7 pm. This great program encourages reading and writing to area children. Due to lack of space at the Library this program was held offsite at the Jr. High School.

**Senior Fair @ Homer Township Library (\$2,000)** This grant funds programs for area seniors and adults to receive reliable and accurate information specifically in the areas of health, finance and legal issues. These were some of the topic areas pinpointed by our recent senior focus groups. The Senior Fair is scheduled on April 1st and the Legal Fair on April 30th.

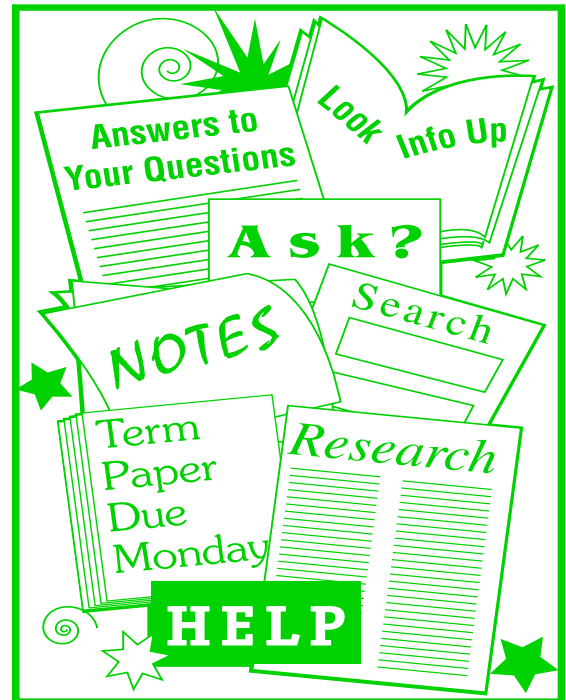
For our tax-capped Library budget, grant awards are very important. In the past two years a total of 21 grants have been funded bringing in a grand total of more than \$400,000 to the Library. These funds provide programs, computers, and resources which help create stronger connections between the Library and community organizations, schools, and our residents, benefiting all.

## WHO IS HAL?

Hal is our new and wonderful user-friendly Web-based electronic library catalog! This catalog can be accessed on site or in the convenience of your home or business, and is directly linked from our Web site at [www.homerlibrary.org](http://www.homerlibrary.org). Why is HAL so great? With the new format, searching the catalog for our materials as well as other libraries will be much easier. You can place holds, see your library account, renew materials, locate and access Web sites classified by professional librarians; view best-seller lists, see on-line book reviews, view table of contents, author biographies, and much more! Homer Library is a member of the Heritage Library System which along with 200 other member libraries has been planning for this upgraded system for the past several years.

## QUESTIONS?

Just ask a Librarian, we'd love to help!



**WELCOME TO MATT WESTON,  
OUR NEW REFERENCE LIBRARIAN**

Matt Weston joins the Library in January as Reference Librarian. Matt is a recent graduate of the library school at Dominican University and has worked in several jobs providing services to adults and children. With the addition of Matt to our staff, a librarian will be available at the Help Desk most hours the Library is open. **Welcome Matt!**

**NEW REFERENDUM PROPOSAL ON  
UPCOMING BALLOT.....PLEASE VOTE!**

**The Library Board has made the decision to reduce the original library expansion plans by 50%!**

We know from recent focus groups and surveys that our patrons understand we are out of space. You have told us that the original plan needed to be downsized to receive your approval. As a result, a new referendum question will be issued to our Township and Homer Glen voters in the next election, asking for approval of a \$5.4 million expansion plan. This will add 20,000 square feet to the library.

Those of you who are library users know that the space issue is critical. The Library is at ZERO growth! In simple terms, for every item added one must be withdrawn. Just imagine...if the 560 items that are checked out of the library each day were to be returned, we would have absolutely no room to sit or walk in the library! Without room for growth, the quality of our collection will be adversely affected, and there will be times when you will not have your information needs met.

The new plan requests only a four cent increase which equates to a 1/2 percent (.05) increase to your total tax bill.

On Tuesday, February 25, you will be asked to approve a 4¢ tax rate increase to fund a \$5,400,000 bond issue for the expansion of your Homer Township Library. This will cost a homeowner paying \$4,000 in property tax an additional \$20 a year — only \$1.52 each month! This price includes everything necessary for the expansion: building costs, equipment, furniture, bookshelves, and computers.

If Your Property Taxes Are	Cost for Library Addition
\$3,000	\$15
\$4,000	\$20
\$5,000	\$25
\$6,000	\$30

**Community Meeting**

Attend an informational meeting on Monday, March 24th, at 6:30 p.m. to get answers to your referendum questions.

An expanded Library will positively influence property values and continue to support every member of our community! For additional information, call the Library Director Sheree Kozel-La Ha (708) 301-7908 or Board President Barry Levine at (708) 645-7700.

**LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2002**

Your Library is a vital and ever changing place! Over 213,158 people visited the Homer Public Library in 2002 (that's 584 daily!). The Library has a strong collection of 111,111 items and in 2002 had a circulation of 234,735 (or 643 items borrowed each day).

A snapshot of 2002 would reveal:

- ➔ Sunday hours from 4-8 pm were offered year 'round and expanded summer hours significantly increased the community's access to the Library.
- ➔ Teen Services were enhanced with the addition of a Young Adult Committee, programming, and youth leadership support via Study Buddy and Homework Helpers programs.
- ➔ The addition of an Adult Services Director, and the establishment of a Help Desk allowed us to better assist patrons.
- ➔ Technology upgrades, a dedicated genealogy computer, a dynamic Web site, and new computer equipment benefitted our patrons.
- ➔ Community input was solicited with six focus groups for long-range planning.
- ➔ Senior Outreach Services increased with the homebound delivery of materials, monthly visits to our senior villages, and free Cyber-Senior computer classes.
- ➔ Active collaboration with local schools and growing programs for children and their families included reading clubs, homework assistance, and safety programs.
- ➔ Homer's Youth Librarians are committed to promoting a lifelong love of reading and books. In 2002 they conducted 224 preschool story hours, hosted 80 class visits and booktalked to more than 1,800 children, and held 90 youth craft classes.
- ➔ Expanded resources for our business and adult community members, including over 225 periodicals, and a collection of more than 100,000 items to make a lifelong learning possible.

More than ever the Library continues to be a gathering place and a safe haven where accurate and reliable information can be accessed by every person in our community.

We urge you in 2003 to take advantage of everything we have to offer @ the Homer Township Public Library!

## SAFETY CLASSES OFFERED

In Partnership with the Homer Township Fire Protection District the Library will host monthly safety programs on a variety of topics so residents have accurate and reliable information.

The following FREE programs will be held at the Library from 10:30 - Noon, on the third Saturday of each month, beginning in February. Join us for:

Feb. 15th	Heaters & Carbon Monoxide Safety	June 21st	Fire Prevention for Older Adults
Mar. 15th	Tornado Safety Tips	July 19th	Basic First Aid
April 19th	Fire Safety in the Workplace	Aug. 16th	Smoke Detectors
May 17th	Baby Sitters Fire Safety Class	Sept. 20th	Candle and Holiday Safety

Registration is suggested, but not necessary to attend. Please call (708) 301-7908 to register.



**Homer Township Public Library**

# CRAFTY

# KIDS

<b>MAR. 4</b>	<b>BUNNY/CARROT FRAME</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$2.00
<b>MAR. 7</b>	<b>BLUES CLUES FRAME*</b>	
Friday	9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	\$3.00
<b>MAR. 11</b>	<b>WELCOME TO OUR PATCH</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.00
<b>MAR. 20</b>	<b>CHICK NOTE PAD</b>	
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	\$2.00
<b>MAR. 21</b>	<b>BUNNY POT</b>	
Friday	9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	\$2.00
<b>MAR. 25</b>	<b>EASTER BUNNY HANGER</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.00
<b>MAR. 27</b>	<b>WOOD BUNNIES (Ages 8 &amp; up)</b>	
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.50
<b>APRIL 8</b>	<b>BUNNY GLOVE</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.50
<b>APRIL 11</b>	<b>BUNNY WINDSOCK*</b>	
Friday	9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	\$3.00
<b>APRIL 15</b>	<b>SOCK CHICK</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.00

<b>APRIL 17</b>	<b>TULIP FRAME</b>	
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.00
<b>APRIL 22</b>	<b>WOOD &amp; WIRE FRAME (Ages 8+)</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$2.00
<b>APRIL 25</b>	<b>HOP ON IT*</b>	
Friday	9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	\$2.00
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>MOM'S HEART FRAME (Ages 8+)</b>	
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.50
<b>MAY 2</b>	<b>MOM MEANS LOVE*</b>	
Friday	9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	\$2.50
<b>MAY 6</b>	<b>MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.00
<b>MAY 13</b>	<b>CRITTER MAGNETS (Set of 6)</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.00
<b>MAY 16</b>	<b>PIGGY POT HUGGER*</b>	
Friday	9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	\$2.00
<b>MAY 20</b>	<b>FROG PUPPET</b>	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	\$3.50

\* Parental assistance is necessary for this craft

Kits for craft classes cannot be purchased separately.  
Registration ends 24 hours prior to class.

Please come into the Library to see full craft description and samples.

**An adult must accompany any child under the age of 6 for all craft programs.**

## Homer Township Public Library

14320 West 151st Street  
Homer Glen, IL 60441  
**Phone:** (708) 301-7908

### Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Web Site:** [www.homerlibrary.org](http://www.homerlibrary.org)  
**Email:** [skozel@homerlibrary.org](mailto:skozel@homerlibrary.org)

### Board of Trustees:

Barry Levine, President  
Linda Phelps, Vice-President  
JoAnne Olivieri, Treasurer  
Edward O'Brien, Secretary  
Jane Klunk  
Bill Stachnik  
Rita D. Woods

Library Board Meetings, to which the public is invited, are the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., in the Community Room.

**Library Director:** Sheree Kozel-La Ha, MLS  
**Assistant Director:** Sara McCambridge  
**Adult Services:** Brian Smith, MLS  
**Youth Services:** Kathryn Mitchell  
**Circulation Services:** Jody Studer  
**Business Manager/Newsletter Layout:**  
Carol McSweeney

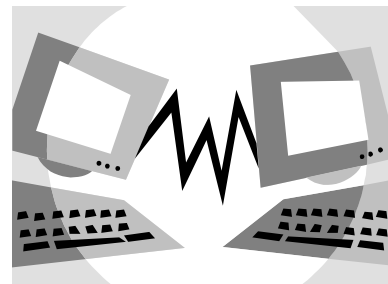
### The Americans with Disabilities Act

The Homer Township Public Library District is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Those planning to attend a program who need special accommodations or who have a question regarding Library accessibility are requested to contact the Library Director at (708) 301-7908; [skozel@homerlibrary.org](mailto:skozel@homerlibrary.org) at least seven working days prior to the event.

## LIBRARIAN LIVE! ONLINE REFERENCE

Since last fall, Homer Township Library has been participating in Librarian Live, a virtual reference service currently offered as a trial project of the Heritage Trail Library System.

Users of Librarian Live can "chat" online with a reference librarian from one of the six participating libraries to get answers to brief, factual questions.



During this trial period, Librarian Live is available Mon.-Thurs., 4:00-6:00 p.m. To use Librarian Live, visit the Library's Web site at

[www.homerlibrary.org](http://www.homerlibrary.org) and click on the Librarian Live logo!

## WANTED: WRITERS

Enjoy writing? Are you a writer or would you like to be? Join us to develop your skills along with other writers and meet some fellow enthusiasts!

The Homer Township Public Library is offering an eight session Creative Writing Club called Prairiesmoke. It begins Wednesday, March 12th and runs for eight sessions, one each month. Each 90 minute class will offer writer's components of instruction, writing, and sharing. The instructor is Denise Grzb Byrne, former "Homer View"



columnist for The Sun. The classes will cover journaling, getting ideas for writing, the personal narrative, writing poetry, the informal essay and letter writing. FREE, but registration is required - sign up early as room size is limited!

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14320 W. 151st Street  
Homer Glen, IL 60441

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[www.homerlibrary.org](http://www.homerlibrary.org)