

*Strike Up The Band Continued from Page 1.*

Parade in Dublin, Ireland in 1997, and in 2004 won the All-American Music Festival. "Since I was in high school, Homewood has had a reputation for having a great band," Nowak says. "In Homewood, the band is cool!" Shamsi-Basha says, "I chose band for the opportunities; we get to go everywhere the football team goes and have just as much, if not more, fun. We also get to go on a huge trip every year."

Ron Pence, Homewood's Director of Bands for the past 11 years, credits the community for much of the band's success. "Homewood is a great place to raise kids, and the reward of that is a great band program," he says. "Community support is invaluable. They [Homewood residents] believe in what we do here." In 2005, Homewood was chosen as one of the top 100 communities in the country for music education. Kids from every part of the student body are members of the band, including academic standouts, football, basketball, baseball, and volleyball players, and varsity cheerleaders. "We want our students to be as well rounded as possible—academically, athletically, musically, and socially," says Pence. "We teach the total child in Homewood. Nowak and Tipps echo those sentiments. "There is a lot of parental and community support for the band," Nowak says. "The band just keeps growing. It's a great program, and we've been fortunate to have great band directors." Tipps says, "Everyone in Homewood—the community, the school, and the school board—is so supportive of the band."

For the students who participate in band, trips are great but just playing in the band is the real reward. "I've learned a lot about myself in band about being a leader and getting along with others," Barrett says. "I've also made some of my best friends through band." Tipps says, "I'm thrilled that Zade gets to be a part of the band and that he's going to have these great memories of high school." Says Pence, "The most rewarding thing about this job is being around such great students. They make it fun to come to work every day."

To see the Homewood Patriot Marching Band perform in the 80th Anniversary Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, tune in on November 23rd to NBC. The parade will start at 7 a.m. and end at noon.



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Ward III/Place 2  
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Ward IV/Place 1  
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Ward IV/Place 2  
David Hooks

Ward V/Place 1  
Jackie Langlow

Ward V/Place 2  
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**City Clerk:**

Linda J. Cook

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

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**FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

**B**ryan Breland came to Homewood from Weaver, Alabama where he grew up and joined the local volunteer fire department. After becoming eligible for the Jefferson County Personnel Board Firefighter Test, Breland took the test and scored very well. He was hired by the City of Homewood as a Firefighter in December of 1992.



BRYAN BRELAND

As a result of having experience in the Fire Service, Breland was able to breeze through Minimum Standards School and became a permanent employee soon after.

Not wanting to rest on his laurels, Breland went back to school to pursue a higher level of education. In 1998, he received a B.S. in Public Safety Administration and went on to complete law school and passed the Bar exam on his first attempt. He is currently attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham pursuing two Masters Degrees in Public Administration and Public Health. Breland was promoted to Apparatus Operator in 2005 and currently competes at every promotional opportunity available.

Breland was selected as Firefighter of the Year due to his ability to learn and apply what he has learned to day to day operations in the Fire Service and beyond. Through self study in database management, he has quickly become an asset to the department in computer technology. Breland also maintains a strong continuing education in Fire Service studies.

Congratulations to Bryan Breland, Homewood Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year.



**Homewood Fire and Police Seek Old Photos**

Homewood Fire and Police Departments are requesting that residents help them recover some of the history of the HFD and HPD by allowing Homewood Fire's archivist Matt Hall to make copies of old pictures involving the fire and police. Future web site links displaying the vintage photographs are planned. Matt will return all original photographs after copies are made. Matt Hall may be reached at: 936-3036 • 332-6300 or by email at: [matthew.hall@homewoodal.org](mailto:matthew.hall@homewoodal.org).