

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Fall 2018
Volume 28 / Number 2



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY MITCHELL / CANDID GIGGLES PHOTOGRAPHY

FLOSSMOOR BREW FEST A SUCCESS

**James and Karen Cheung join friends
Tricia and Jason Kaczmar at the inaugural
Flossmoor Brew Fest in Downtown Flossmoor.**

**Your Chance to Vote
Pickup Truck Parking
on Nov. 6 Ballot**
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**Mmm Mmm Good!
Dunning's Opens
Downtown**
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**School's New Lab
Full STEAM
Ahead at Serena**
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village officials

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Joni Bradley-Scott, Clerk
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Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager
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village numbers

Village Hall: 798-2300

Fire: 798-3885

Non-Emergency Police: 957-4500

Non-Emergency TDD: 647-0179

Public Works: 957-4100

Building Department: 957-4101

Emergency Only: 911

village meetings

Village Board Meeting

1st & 3rd Mondays of the Month at 7:30 p.m.

Plan Commission Meeting

3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

4th Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.

Public Art Commission Meeting

2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

Community Relations Commission Meeting

4th Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

Green Commission Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.



Find us on social media! Look for updates, photos, videos and good conversation on Facebook and Instagram! We truly appreciate all the residents, business owners and visitors who have supported us and joined the conversation!

calendar

flossmoor.org

October 31

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours – 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

October 31

Children's Halloween Party sponsored by the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Parker Junior High School.

November 22 & 23

Village Hall closed for Thanksgiving.

November 24

Small Business Saturday – Support your Flossmoor businesses by shopping locally!

December 8

Flossmoor Winterfest – 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Did you know?

When you sign up for the Village E-News, the email newsletter, you are also signed up for E-Cop, which the Flossmoor Police Department uses as needed to notify residents of public-safety related urgent issues or to ask for the public's help in solving a crime. Visit www.flossmoor.org to sign up.

Historic Flossmoor

Flossmoor has always been revered for its notable architectural designs and unique suburban image. Very few neighborhoods in Flossmoor resemble the conventional subdivisions that are so prominent in other Chicago suburbs. Have you seen these one-of-a-kind, historic houses across Flossmoor?

1248 Brassie. This Chalet style golf cottage, a rare style to be found in the Midwest, was constructed by Robert O. Law c1899.

926 Sterling. This large, three-story Colonial Revival is one of two "model homes" built by the Illinois Central Railway Co. c1903 to showcase its newly-developed Flossmoor subdivision.

1222 Brassie. This impressive Queen Anne style home was purportedly built c1904 by John F. Gilchrist, re: Homewood (Flossmoor) Country Club and the Homewood Land Association.

1240 Western. Designed and built c1908 by architect George C. Nimmons, a significant Chicago architect.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings! I hope that you and your family are enjoying the fall season in Flossmoor. The Village Board of Trustees, Village staff and I have had a busy year thus far with a lot of work directed at moving our strategic initiatives forward that were identified at the end of 2017. The Village's Strategic Plan, which was created with substantial input from residents, is now in place and available for viewing on the Village website. If you have not already reviewed the Plan, please check it out as this will be the road map for Flossmoor's goals over the next five-year period.

I am pleased to let you know that we have made good progress in the areas of maintaining our housing stock, economic development, and on diversity and inclusion in Flossmoor. Your Village Board recognizes that Flossmoor's housing stock is one of our biggest strengths. For that reason, the Village Board passed two new ordinances this past summer: 1) a chronic nuisance property ordinance that gives our code enforcement team additional tools to bring problem properties into compliance and 2) a vacant building registration that establishes a program for the identification, registration and regulation of vacant properties.

On the economic development front, Buona Beef & Catering, Starbucks, and AT&T continue to be valuable new businesses in Flossmoor's southwest business district.

Dunning's Gourmet Market has opened for business in downtown Flossmoor. Jersey Mike's Subs and Captain Hook's Fish & Chicken have signed leases and will be opening in early winter and Love Noa, a terrific children's boutique clothing store, is also now open for business. Flossmoor's strong financial stability and business friendly environment continue to attract new and compatible businesses to our town, but it is up to each and every one of us to patronize and utilize all of our Flossmoor businesses if we want to keep a vibrant business community.

I am also pleased to report that Flossmoor is being recognized internationally for its diversity and resident inclusion programs by the International City Management Association. The Village has been awarded the Association's 2018 Diversity and Inclusion Program Excellence Award which was given to three communities out of 11,000 worldwide members. This international award recognizes Flossmoor's excellence in local government and recognizes the hard work of the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission, the Flossmoor Green Commission, and other Village organizations to create a community of inclusion and acceptance. The ICMA Diversity and Inclusion Program Excellence Award will be included in Flossmoor's marketing efforts as we continue to spread the word about Flossmoor's strengths and opportunities.

The Village has completed a number of other important projects so far this year. Your Village Board recognizes that maintaining our streets and sidewalks is fundamental to Flossmoor's infrastructure. This summer, the Village completed more than \$100,000 worth of sidewalk repairs and replacement and \$250,000 in street resurfacing across town. We plan to budget and complete even more streets and sidewalk repairs next year.

Flossmoor continues to be a wonderful community with low crime, good schools, nice homes, beautiful parks, easy access to Chicago, and a financially stable local government that provides excellent police, fire, and public works services to its residents.

As always, the Village Board and I remain available to hear your thoughts and suggestions for our community. Our email addresses are on the inside cover of this newsletter and we cordially invite you to attend Village Board meetings on the first and third Monday of each month for additional in-person contact with your Village Board.

Have a great fall and be well!

Paul S. Braun

Mayor



Mayor Paul Braun

Meet Your Neighbor: Phil Lee

When the Village of Flossmoor recently released a video promoting its commitment and celebration of the community's diversity and inclusive attitudes, residents responded spectacularly. People of all ages took time to comment, like and share the video on social media, eventually reaching in excess of 20,000 views. No small feat for a community the size of Flossmoor.



Phil Lee shooting footage for Flossmoor's promotional video.

But, when video creator and director Phil Lee thinks about the response following the release of Flossmoor's promotional video, he isn't overly surprised by the reactions it elicited.

"When we were filming the interviews, we really had no idea what to expect from people. We didn't give them a script, we just asked a few questions and let them run with it," said Lee. "What we found was it didn't matter what words these people were saying; you could feel their love for the community. We didn't need to paint a picture of Flossmoor with extra footage because we were able to capture it through the interviews."

That community pride and unity are, in-part, reasons

why Lee decided to make Flossmoor his home. As a graduate of Marian Catholic High School, Lee always considered Flossmoor a nice community filled with friendly people not far from his hometown in Markham. Despite those fond memories, however, Lee had never considered Flossmoor a place to raise his family, instead looking at areas like Oak Park and other North Chicago suburbs. That was until he and his wife expanded their real estate options to a larger area throughout Chicagoland.

While perusing one of the real estate sites, Lee found himself drawn to the unique homes in Flossmoor. Though it took some persuasion, Lee was able to convince his wife to visit Flossmoor and tour the home he'd found. Both fell in love with the home, but it wasn't until the second visit that Lee knew they were here to stay.

"My wife didn't know anything about the area but she didn't want to live in the 'South Side.' But when we came to Flossmoor, she absolutely fell in love with it," Lee said. "People have so many opinions about the southern suburbs and I think Flossmoor is a great example of how those opinions are so misguided. There is so much more value in these communities than anywhere else in Chicagoland."

Part of the appeal for Lee in moving to Flossmoor was of course, the convenient commute to Chicago. As co-owner of video production company Spin Artist, a company he founded with his business partner in 2010, it was important to Lee that he could easily commute to and from his office in the city. Now that he's lived in the community for six years, and had the opportunity to see his professional life and personal life come together in such a unique way, Lee's passion for the Village of Flossmoor has never been stronger.

"I've done projects like this (promotional video) before, but this was much different. It was like my two worlds collided and it felt really personal," Lee said. "Seeing people's candid and honest responses in the video just proved to me that all the things I feel about Flossmoor are felt by a lot of people in this community."

"We really didn't know what to expect with this video, but the timing, the message and everything else came together and it just worked," Lee continued, "I think you'll find there's a little Flossmoor magic in there."

To watch the Flossmoor promotional video, visit our Facebook page, YouTube page or website.

If you know someone who would be great for our new Meet Your Neighbor series, please email Amy Kent, village Communications Manager at akent@flossmoor.org.

Advisory Referendum on Pick-Up Truck Parking to Appear on November 6 Ballot

On November 6, 2018, the Village of Flossmoor will entertain an advisory referendum on a long-standing ordinance restricting pick-up truck parking on residential driveways. The question that will be presented on the ballot is as follows:

“Should the Village of Flossmoor consider permitting a Class B truck or van (8,000 pounds or less) or a vehicle with specialty plates of a similar size as a Class B vehicle to park on a residential driveway so long as the vehicle is not used for commercial purposes?”

Please review the quick facts below.

What is the current ordinance?

The existing ordinance, 23-101.2.6 (b), currently states that:

Personal use trucks bearing an A or B State license plate as verified by affidavit at the time of vehicle sticker application may only be parked within an enclosed garage, except for the immediate loading or unloading of such truck. Only those trucks satisfying the following limitations may park pursuant to this subsection:

- (1) the gross vehicle weight does not exceed 8,000 pounds; and
- (2) the vehicle height does not exceed seven (7) feet; and
- (3) the vehicle is not dual wheeled on its rear axle; and
- (4) the vehicle is not a rack or staked bed type.

What would the new ordinance look like?

Draft Zoning Ordinance Language - the following section will replace 23-101.2.6 (b).

No vehicle having a gross weight of eight thousand one (8,001) pounds or more shall be parked on any driveway or open area of any lot in any residential district except for a period no longer than necessary for the expeditious loading or unloading of such vehicle.

Personal use passenger vehicles shall be considered automobiles, pick-up trucks, sports utility vehicles (SUV), or vans which size and design are intended to accommodate and transport human passengers on paved roads. Personal use passenger vehicles designed for carrying of not more than 10 passengers may be parked outside of a residence if all of the following conditions are met.

1. There are no items in the bed of the vehicle unless covered by a fitted factory or after-market installed cover.
2. The vehicle has no commercial markings or advertising, regardless if it is permanent or temporary, and no commercial equipment or appendage is attached to the exterior of the vehicle, including but not limited to snow plows and auxiliary lighting. Trailer hitches, bike racks, bull bars, grill guards and manufacturer installed rooftop racks are not considered modifications.
3. The vehicle has no more than four wheels.
4. The vehicle height does not exceed eight (8) feet.
5. The vehicle width does not exceed eight (8) feet.
6. The vehicle does not have any part of the exhaust system installed above the frame of the vehicle.

What happens following the referendum?

Following the referendum, the Village Board will consider the results and may direct the Plan Commission to consider the change to the Village’s zoning ordinance as outlined above. The Plan Commission process includes a public hearing and formal vote on the recommended change. If the planning commission approves the ordinance amendment, it will come before the Village Board of Trustees for additional discussion and a final vote.

While an advisory referendum is a useful tool in surveying public opinion and recognizing resident input, it is not an official, binding decision. Only if the Village Board of Trustees votes to alter ordinance 23-101.2.6 (b), as identified in the proposed changes above, will the zoning ordinance be changed.

NEWS TO USE!

Sick Spruce

As you walk or ride through town, you may have noticed several dead or dying evergreen trees – many of which are spruce trees. According to Village arborist, Dave Becker, spruce trees can be challenging to grow and keep healthy outside of their western US or European native climates. Both the Colorado spruce and Norway spruce thrive in cold, moist mountain regions making the Chicago climate a bit extreme. The frequent summer heat and drought in Chicago cause stress to spruce trees, which then leads to greater susceptibility to insects and disease. Once an insect or disease invades the trees, controlling it is difficult and the trees can die very quickly.

The best way to help prevent disease and decline in spruce trees is proper planting and tree care. Spruce trees require full sun locations for best growth. Consistent soil moisture is very important to the health of the tree because spruce prefer moist, well drained locations. Wet and flooded locations will add to tree stress, but be sure to water trees liberally during drought to maintain moist soil. Adding a layer of mulch to the soil around the tree can help to maintain moisture.

Spruce trees are an attractive addition to any yard, if planted in proper locations, but we must remember that spruce trees have a shorter life span in our climate. Following good tree care practices will help extend the life of your tree.

If your yard is not a suitable environment for a spruce tree, a great substitute is the eastern white pine. Eastern white pine are native to northern Illinois and are better adapted to our seasonal climate. This tree can also better tolerate soil conditions in our area, but be sure to follow the same tree care practices as the spruce trees. It is important to the health of the eastern white pine to maintain moist soil during drought and avoid poor drainage areas. Don't forget to water newly planted trees regularly!

Please remember that it is unlawful under Village Code to allow a dead tree to remain standing on your property. Dead trees or dead branches should be removed promptly. Village code enforcement officers respond promptly to reports of dead trees and a failure to remove dead trees may result in a citation.

Let Them Fall...Then Mulch!

Flossmoor's glorious green canopy will soon turn beautiful shades of red and gold. Soon after, the work begins, as homeowners face the prospect of mountains of leaves on their property. This fall, consider letting the leaves fall – then mulching them. Leaves are nature's gift to your garden. Shredding them with the lawn mower and putting them on your garden beds is a free and nutrient-rich way to keep in moisture and help keep plants from heaving through winter. Leaves are a great addition to compost bins too. So, save your back some strain this season and let the leaves fall!

New Raffle License Rules

As required by Illinois state law, the Village of Flossmoor is tasked with regulating raffles conducted by non-profit organizations. These regulations include duration of the raffles, as well as jackpot payouts restrictions. In order to accommodate raffles that have an extended duration and large jackpots, like the popular Queen of Hearts raffle, the Village Board recently approved new raffle regulations that categorize different raffles into classes of licenses based on the value of the prize award. Previously, Village raffle rules allowed a raffle with prizes not in excess of \$250,000. Under the new regulations, a raffle of that size is considered a Class A raffle with a fee of \$25. Also available through the changed regulations, Class B licenses which may have a prize value up to \$1,000,000 with a license fee of \$75 and Class C raffles which may have a prize value up to \$5,000,000 with a license fee of \$100.

Any organization wishing to hold a raffle must apply for the Village license. It is recommended that organizations apply no later than three weeks prior to the start of the raffle. Raffle license applications are also available on the Village website.



Three Cheers for the Beards!

Several Flossmoor police officers gave their razors a break this summer to participate in the Flossmoor Beard Olympics, a three-month long fundraiser for the Special Olympics of Illinois that culminated with a final audience vote at National Night Out on August 7. Annually, the Flossmoor Police Department participates in the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run and Cop on a Rooftop, two fundraisers that take place in May. This year, the department extended its charitable commitments through the summer, allowing attendees at National Night Out to determine the winning beard by voting with a donation to the Special Olympics. National Night Out is a free night of fun that provides residents an opportunity to interact with police officers and learn more about the Flossmoor Police Department in a relaxed setting at Flossmoor Village Hall.

Ten Flossmoor police officers participated in the no-shave summer each donating \$50 to enter the contest, but it was Sergeant Clint Wagner who had the gold medal-winning beard. All in all, the Flossmoor Police Department raised more than \$500 for the Special Olympics of Illinois.

Remember to Park on the Safe Side

In order to ensure that emergency vehicles are able to traverse the streets in Flossmoor, parking is only allowed on the non-hydrant side of the street. Many streets in Flossmoor – even new streets – are narrow, making it difficult for emergency vehicles to maneuver through them. When cars are parked on both sides of the street, it's essentially impossible. As winter approaches, please also remember that parking restrictions go into effect when it snows two or more inches. Parking is then prohibited on all Village streets until snow is removed. In response to multiple requests from the business community, time limit parking has been relaxed for the downtown area. Vehicles may now park up to four hours in the downtown, an increase from the previous limit of two hours.



Do You Want to Earn \$50?

All you need to do is complete a survey about your daily travel! Between August 2018 and May 2019, Chicago-area residents have a chance to help the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) understand how they get from place to place – whether by car, bus, train, bike, or on foot. This understanding will help CMAP to make the best use of limited resources for future transportation investments. Complete all three survey components – including digitally tracking your travel for one day – and they'll send you a check for \$50. Make your voice heard and share your commuting experiences through the My Daily Travel survey. To join the survey, go to www.cmap.illinois.gov, or call 1-855-981-7286 to sign up by phone.

Village Completes Resurfacing Projects

The Village completed 1.38 miles of street resurfacing projects during the summer of 2018. Street selection is based on condition of the road, and this year's streets were identified during a 2017 needs-based evaluation. The Village uses Motor Fuel Tax revenues to fund resurfacing projects, which is a revenue that the Village receives from the State of Illinois based on gasoline taxes. Motor fuel tax revenue is also used for curb and sidewalk repair, street patching, and snow and ice control (road salt). This year's program cost \$250,000, and included the following streets:

- Dartmouth Rd. (Flossmoor Rd. to End)
- Cambridge Ave. (Flossmoor Rd. to Amherst Ct.)
- Cambridge Ave. (Oxford Ct. to End)
- Amherst Ct.
- Oxford Ct.
- Central Park Ave. (Vollmer Rd. to 198th St. West)
- Avers Ave. (Flossmoor Rd. to End).

business spotlight



Dunning's Market Finds a New Home

For Flossmoor-area residents, and the many others, craving Maureen Mader's famous chicken salad, the grueling wait is finally over. Dunning's Gourmet Market and Deli (1048 Sterling Avenue) is now open. The 60-year-old meat market, turned deli, turned full-service café made its Flossmoor debut in September, relocating from its 20-year roots at Cherry Creek Shopping Center to the heart of downtown Flossmoor.

Maureen, who has owned the business for the last 20 years, cherished her time at the Cherry Creek Shopping Center but always felt that her heart, and the heart of Dunning's, belonged in Flossmoor. So, when a long-time customer approached her with the opportunity to set up shop inside one of Flossmoor's busiest corridors, Maureen knew it was the right decision.

"I have always liked that Dunning's is a community spot, a go-to neighborhood store," said Maureen. "[And] although I loved being in Cherry Creek Plaza, I really feel like now I'm truly part of the neighborhood."

With the new location, Maureen is also hoping to roll out a few other new things including after-school specials, cooking classes, and an expanded menu. One thing that will never change at Dunning's, though – homemade recipes made with love. Like the ever-popular, chicken salad sandwich.

A Healthy Pet Starts at Healthy Hounds

When mother and son Lisa and Cameron Payette started noticing health problems in their beloved Shiba Inus Rocky, Roxanne, Chipper and Shiba, they decided it was time to find a solution. That solution morphed into Healthy Hounds (2546 Central Drive), a canine nutrition center, boutique and pet supply shop that prioritizes the nutritional aspect of food for dogs and cats. The two bought the shop a few years ago after learning just how many unnecessary and inorganic ingredients can be found in major pet food brands. It became their mission at Healthy Hounds to sell the highest quality products, often made by smaller food companies, that provide the best nutrition for the pets they and their customers love.

"In the foods we sell, I can tell you exactly what's in it, the products are raw and real; it's not hard to advertise products like that," said Cameron. "I've been feeding my dog raw [unprocessed foods] for seven years and he is still able to do things that typically only younger dogs can. I feel like the people in this community love their dogs and understand the holistic approach to feeding their dog real ingredients and the benefits of it."

Wiley's Goes Even More Green

Wiley's Grill at Coyote Run Golf Course (800 Kedzie) is doing its part to help reduce and eliminate plastic waste in the ocean. The restaurant and bar in May vowed to cut out plastic straws and make the conversion to paper. The commitment goes so far that servers won't even offer customers a straw of any material unless specifically requested. This isn't Wiley's first effort at "Going Green," though. Before making the conversion to paper straws, the restaurant used straws made of a biodegradable material, an eco-friendly alternative to plastic, and have employed the use of take-out containers made of corn to improve and speed up the decomposition process. This use of paper straws and organic containers is Wiley's next step in its commitment to preserving the environment.

"[Experts] say if we don't reduce the amount of straws that end up in the ocean by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish," said Shari Klein, Food and Beverage Manager at Wiley's Grill. "The use of paper straws in our restaurant is five-times more expensive than plastic, but it's worth it. We're a green facility and the park district is green-friendly,

so we try and do what we can, where we can."



school spotlight

Full STEAM Ahead in Serena Hills! Donation Helps Drive 21st Century Learning in District 161

Students at Serena Hills Elementary School are embracing the “21st Century Learning” motto of Flossmoor School District 161 in a big way. As learning techniques shift into the 21st century, so too do the tools teachers use to educate. From the introduction of computer labs, students using online learning portals, to now teaching children as young as 6-years-old on Chromebooks and iPads, education has significantly shifted from the days of blackboards and chalk dust.

Of all the programs that exist in the United States, few tap into the introduction to technology quite like STEAM. An acronym, STEAM is a learning approach that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics to guide student engagement, dialogue and critical thinking in interactive and collaborative ways. What STEAM educators have found is students who participate in STEAM education and programming take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.

At the new Serena Hills STEAM lab, which is a prototype of programing district administrators hope to roll out across all of Flossmoor District 161, this is accomplished a number of ways. First, it starts with a dedicated instructor. Andrea Beaty, a certified STEAM teacher and 2017 Golden Apple Award winner, heads up Serena Hills’ STEAM program, a luxury not afforded to most schools according to Dr. Dana Smith, District 161 superintendent.

“One of the more difficult parts of introducing STEAM education into a curriculum is having a teacher who is qualified to teach it,” Smith said. “We were very fortunate at Serena Hills to have Mrs. Beaty, who had already introduced elements of the STEAM program into our curriculum, making her transition into a full-time STEAM teacher a much easier one.”

Another luxury offered to Serena Hills not afforded to most, was a nearly \$300,000 donation that was used to construct the innovative learning space needed for STEAM education. That donation came from Homewood-Flossmoor High School graduate and Serena Hills alumni, Allan DiCastro.

DiCastro, who grew up in Chicago Heights and attended Flossmoor District 161 his entire education, has come a long

way from his Shining Stars roots. DiCastro is now the co-founder and executive director of Art + Practice, which he founded with partner Mark Bradford, a public art program that provides free, museum-curated art exhibits to underprivileged and challenged neighborhoods in Southern Los Angeles. Additionally, Art + Practice partners with First



Place for Youth, a foster organization that provides housing, job training and education to at-risk foster children aged 18 to 24.

DiCastro says his donation to Serena Hills was his way of giving back to a school and a community that always supported him during his formative years.

“As a kid, I always felt like I was truly seen at Serena Hills, like I could be myself,” DiCastro said. “In challenged neighborhoods, that isn’t always the case, so I wanted those kids to know that I see them, that they are seen. They have so much value and potential and I want to be sure they have the tools they need to do great things in their lives.”

Nearly a year after the donation, and a few months of operating the STEAM lab, Smith is still in awe of DiCastro’s generosity and commitment to early childhood education.

“What Allan has done for Serena Hills and all of District 161, not just with the STEAM lab but with years of support, is beyond anything we could have imagined,” Smith said. “He’s gifted these students with a one-of-a-kind learning center that will help shape them into our future leaders. It’s truly remarkable what he’s done for our students.”



Flossmoor Police Try to Change Driver Behavior

Following complaints of drivers speeding through school zones and pedestrian-heavy corridors, the Flossmoor Police Department took its speed reduction program to a new level with portable, radar speed signs.

These signs, which were purchased thanks to a \$10,000 Powering Safe Communities grant, sponsored by ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus, not only monitor speed in citizen-friendly ways, alerting drivers when they're exceeding the limit, but they also collect long-term traffic speed data, even when the displays are not activated.

This data will be used to study the effectiveness of the signs, but more importantly said Flossmoor Police Chief Mike Pulec, to understand traffic patterns and address speeding problems on some of Flossmoor's busiest roadways.

"The continued goal of the Flossmoor Police Department is to protect children, parents, crossing guards and cyclists while they travel to and from school," said Pulec. "These digital radar speed signs and the larger Portable Speed Warning Program are designed to make our village roadways safer."

Currently, the two radar speed signs have been placed in high traveled school speed zones, one near Parker Junior High School and the other near Western Avenue Elementary School, to ensure drivers pay attention to reduced speed limits during school hours. These portable signs will also be used at multiple community locations throughout the year.

For more information about the Portable Speed Warning Program or to report speeding violations in residential zones, contact the Flossmoor Police Department at (708) 957-4500.

Flossmoor Fire Department Receives SAFER Grant

For years the Flossmoor Fire Department has wanted to add additional shift commanders to the full-time roster. Now, thanks in-part to a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the department can do just that.

The Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, is a FEMA-backed program designed to provide funding to help increase or maintain highly trained firefighters in the nation's communities. The grant will provide \$348,992 over the course of three years to help cover the salary of two additional shift captains.

With only one full-time shift captain currently on staff, Assistant Fire Chief Keith Damm said the SAFER grant will be a significant boon to the strength and stability of the department as it will offset a portion of salary costs for the next three years.

"Currently two of our shifts are led by contract employees. We've made the system work to this point, but the trouble is we see a lot of turnover as contract firefighters gain full-time employment with other departments," said Damm. "Now, with this grant money, we can put time, training and other resources toward our own full-time shift leaders without the risk of losing them in 16 to 18 months."

According to FEMA, the goal of SAFER is to enhance a local fire departments' ability to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association's codes and standards.

Nearly \$350 million was awarded in 2017 through the SAFER grant program, and award amounts were based on a number of need-assessed factors including department size, community population, territory size, and more.

"By adding two more sworn, full-time shift leaders, we're able to bring a level of stability to the department that we weren't able to achieve through contract employees," said Damm. "It has been apparent to us for some time now that we needed to have more long-term resources available, and we're thankful that SAFER will help us do that."

FLOSSMOOR ADOPTS NEW ORDINANCES

The Village recently adopted two new ordinances to provide for better enforcement of the Village's property maintenance standards: a chronic nuisance property registration and vacant building registration. Both are intended to ensure that the Village's housing stock remains a strength of the community by allowing the Village to better identify and track problems and work with owners to resolve property maintenance and other issues.

Chronic Nuisance

While the great majority of property owners understand the value of maintaining their property and are prompt to respond to property maintenance violations, there are some properties where violations become a common reoccurrence and therefore, a chronic nuisance.

These properties interfere with the enjoyment and well-being of residents in the community and negatively impact neighboring property values. Chronic nuisance properties can contribute to an increase in the incidents of fire, injury, health problems and disease, as well as crime.

A chronic nuisance property is defined as: any property where two or more nuisance activities have occurred as a result of two separate events within a six-month period as investigated and verified by either law enforcement or inspectional services and the owner has failed to correct the violation or the nuisance has reoccurred; or where two or more citations defined as nuisance activities or conditions within a six-month period have been adjudicated with a finding of liability or guilt.

Once determined to be a nuisance property, the property is registered and subject to an initial health and safety or nuisance inspection and a six month follow up inspection. The property remains on the registry for a minimum of twelve months, subject to a review after 11 months to determine whether the property should be removed from or remain on the registry.

Vacant Building Registration

Vacant buildings are the most likely properties to become a chronic nuisance as they are often neglected during the vacancy period. The new program obligates the owner of the property to register a vacant building and provide a point of contact residing in Cook County to address any property maintenance violations. The registration will also serve as notice that the owner is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of a vacant building and grounds. Mortgage lenders are included in the ordinance, requiring them to register unoccupied buildings that are acquired or are in the process of foreclosure.

A one-time registration fee of \$150 is required to cover the administrative costs associated with enforcing the program, and the owner is required to maintain liability insurance. Where a building has been determined to be vacant and registered as a vacant building, an occupancy permit is required prior to any occupancy and is subject to building permit and inspections as necessary to meet occupancy requirements.

Who's knocking at the door?

Have you ever wondered about the rules for selling door-to-door? In Flossmoor, businesses are restricted from selling goods door-to-door but orders or subscriptions for delivery can be solicited. Likewise, charitable organizations can also seek contributions or donations in this manner. Handbills – printed notices, advertisements or pamphlets – may also be delivered door-to-door without restriction. While solicitor registration is not required by the Village, officials encourage solicitors to check in with the Flossmoor Police Department so they can be aware of their activity and engagement. The Flossmoor Police Department does not check the Better Business Bureau or any other agency ratings in relations to solicitors, unless there is reason to believe the solicitation is a ruse for potential criminal activity.

As a resident you determine whether you want to answer these types of calls. If you post a "no solicitor invited" or "no handbills invited" sign near your main entrance, it must be respected. If you receive these types of calls after posting a "no solicitor" and/or "no handbill" sign, it is a violation of local ordinance and a ticket can be issued. "No solicitor" signs are available through the police department or at local home improvement stores.



Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoor.org

*****ECRWSSDDM****

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
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