

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Winter 2018
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COVER STORY PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY MITCHELL / CANDID GIGGLES PHOTOGRAPHY

DARTMOUTH FAMILIES KEEP TRADITION ALIVE

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village officials

Paul Braun, Mayor
pbraun@flossmoor.org

Brian Driscoll, Trustee
bdriscoll@flossmoor.org

Perry Hoag, Trustee
phoag@flossmoor.org

Philip Minga, Trustee
pminga@flossmoor.org

Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager
bwachtel@flossmoor.org

James Mitros, Trustee
jmitros@flossmoor.org

James Wilder, Trustee
jwilder@flossmoor.org

Diane Williams, Trustee
dwilliams@flossmoor.org

Joni Bradley-Scott, Clerk
jbradleyscott@flossmoor.org

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

December 16
Brunch with Santa at Wiley's Grill. Call 957-8774 to reserve.

December 24 & December 25
Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas

December 31
Happy Noon Year Party at Wiley's Grill

December 31 & January 1
Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

January 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Village Hall closed. Find more information on service projects at www.flossmoor.org

February 21
Light Up the Park Playdate at 6 p.m. at Flossmoor Hills School

Did you know?

Winter is hard on vehicles. With frigid temperatures, slick roadways and unexpected weather conditions, we can all agree winter is the worst time of year for cars. But, did you know the Village of Flossmoor Public Works Department is doing what it can to help preserve your car during winter?

How you may ask? By greatly reducing its use of salt and calcium chloride for snow and ice control. Instead, Flossmoor Public Works uses a proprietary liquid formula known as ThermaPoint, produced by the Chicago Salt Company, that is 90-percent less corrosive than rock salt and salt brines.

The formula is comprised of a collection of organic materials like beet juice and molasses in combination with rock salt and small amounts of calcium chloride that performs in

temperatures as low as negative 41 degrees Fahrenheit.

Not only is this organic polymer easier on vehicles, it's also better for the environment. So, when you're driving around Flossmoor this winter, think about

the beet juice lining our streets!





Earl Conwell's residence at 1807 Lawrence Crescent in Flossmoor

FLOSSMOOR LIGHTS IT UP!

Neighborhood Twinkle Light Traditions are Contagious

When Earl Conwell first moved his family to Flossmoor, his neighborhood always felt a little dark during the holiday season. So, he decided he would bring some light to the area. Now, 25 years later, Earl's home is one of the most recognized in the Village of Flossmoor. That's because Earl and his family have become Flossmoor famous for their elaborate and spectacular holiday light display.

With nearly 30 trees spanning the landscape, a five-foot long hedge, two stories of roofline, and a gated front entryway at 1807 Lawrence Crescent, tens of thousands of LED lights span Earl's home. The one-of-a-kind holiday light display does not disappoint. Though his wife Ruth put a stop to Earl stringing the lights himself about six years ago, the display is 100-percent Earl's brainchild, and has been for the last two decades.

Earl's inspiration often takes different forms depending on the year, but one thing he always looks forward to is getting new ideas from different cities across the country.

"Every time I travel to a new city during the holiday season, I love to go around looking at all the lights," said Earl. "It's a great way to get new ideas."

His favorite city?

"Dallas. In Dallas, everyone does it big."

The Conwells themselves do it big every year, but they aren't the only Flossmoor residents to go all out with the holiday lights. For nearly 20 years, Dartmouth Road has wowed neighbors and visitors alike with its sprawling vertical light displays that line the street from start to finish.

The man behind the lights, Tyler Thompson, originally introduced the idea in his Flossmoor neighborhood after

visiting his parents in Kansas City one winter. The 40 to 50-foot strands of lights affixed atop towering trees, spanning entire neighborhoods were a sight Thompson had never before seen. He was mesmerized.

"I had never seen anything like it; it was beautiful," said Thompson. "So, the next winter, I decided to do it on my own house."

It took a few years to catch on across the neighborhood, with some liking the display more than others, but today, it's one of Flossmoor's greatest holiday traditions. As many as 50 houses along Dartmouth have participated in a single year, and Thompson, along with several of his dedicated neighbors, are often the ones to hang the lights.

Which introduces the question many observers have – how do they do it?

Though a few tech-savvy techniques have popped up over the years, Thompson's go-to method has changed little since his first year. A long string, a weighted baseball and a strong arm have proved to be the best method for light-stringing on Dartmouth.

When driving along Dartmouth, gazing in awe at the thousands of twinkling lights that line the street, it should come as no surprise to see a few stray baseballs and twine hanging from the trees. It's all part of the fun and the magic of the holiday season on Dartmouth, said Thompson.

"I still get excited driving down my own street," he added.

Is there a holiday light display in Flossmoor that you love? Post it on social media with the hashtag #Flossmoor365 so we can share it.



GIVING AT ITS GREATEST

Volunteer Opportunites Abound Around Flossmoor

Tis the season for holiday giving, and the greater Home-wood-Flossmoor area is ripe with charitable opportunities. Whether it's donating non-perishable food items to holiday baskets, volunteering time to local organizations, or buying items for toy drives and holiday gift boxes, there's something for everyone during the season of giving.

One such organization, the Jones Memorial Community Center, has been helping and supporting families for more than 100 years. While the bulk of the Jones Center's community aid comes in the form of children's programming and after school mentoring, the holidays always introduce a greater need in the area. During its annual holiday food and gift basket distribution, the Jones Center serves anywhere from 100 to 300 families. Cheryl Roop, Jones Center executive director, estimates this year the organization will serve at least 200 families in the region.

Among the requested items for the food and gift baskets are new toys or gift cards for kids ages newborn to 17, new or gently used winter clothing items for the entire family, and holiday meal accoutrements – ham, canned fruits and

vegetables, potatoes, baking mixes and deserts.

Another local non-profit organization hoping to make a difference this holiday season is Respond Now. For the 49th consecutive year, Respond Now is hosting its annual Christmas event, which includes gift and meal distribution to nearly 500 families and 1,000 children.

Like the Jones Center, community donations make up nearly all of the goods that are distributed during Respond Now's Christmas event. Boys' and girls' toys, sports equipment, craft items, games for teenagers, and area gift cards are some of the most requested items said Sue Perkins, volunteer and board member for Respond Now. But, she added, any small items and other gift ideas are always welcome and appreciated during the Christmas event.

One note Perkins, Roop and other area organizers want local residents to remember this holiday season; the need for giving doesn't end when the snow melts.

Brittany Williams, the events and volunteer manager at the South Suburban Family Shelter, always appreciates the outpouring of support that comes during the holiday sea-

son, but asks that people donate items to SSFS that can be distributed year-round, toiletries being of the greatest need.

Things like hair products, tooth brushes, diapers, body washes and lotions, deodorant and other self-care items are always in high demand at SSFS, along with non-perishable food items. Of course, since all of these local organizations are non-profit, monetary support from the community is essential in keeping services free and the doors open.

Here are the dates for holiday giving distribution and collection, and the high-demand items being requested:

Jones Memorial Community Center

Location: 220 E 15th St, Chicago Heights. Collection is underway and distribution will take place at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18.

Requested items: Food items for each bag include ham, green beans, corn, canned pineapples (or other fruit), brown sugar, canned yams, boxed scalloped potatoes, corn bread mix and cookies.

Gift suggestions: New toys for ages newborn to 11 years old, \$10-\$15 gift cards for 12 to 17 years old. Sports balls, Nerf balls and sets, lotion and body spray gift sets, jewelry kits and sets, make-up kits, board games, baby dolls and Barbie dolls (different ethnicities), craft kits, art supplies, LEGO starter kits, gift cards (McDonalds, Game Stop, Walmart, Target, Old Navy, etc.)

Respond Now

Location: 1439 Emerald Ave, Chicago Heights. Donations can be dropped off at Respond Now.

Requested items: Gift donations must be NEW and UNWRAPPED. Ages newborn to 14 years old. Boys' and girls' toys, books, sports equipment, craft items, games (board games and video games) for teenagers. Gift cards from Meijer, Target, Walmart, etc. Small stocking stuffers are also appreciated. All non-perishable food items will be accepted and any remaining items will be taken to one of two local food pantries. Macaroni and cheese is a high-demand item. Year-round food pantry donations for Respond Now can be made at Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Agnes Church.

South Suburban Family Shelter

Location: tel (708) 794-2140. Holiday event is already completed, but year-round donations can be coordinated by calling South Suburban Family Shelter.

High-demand items: Deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, hair products (women and children), body wash, lotion, hand soap, tooth paste, tooth brush, floss, nail care products, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, diapers, Pull Ups, baby wipes.

Non-perishable food items: Canned food products (vegetables, fruits, meat), cereal/oatmeal, granola, breakfast bars, juice, cooking seasonings, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and sauce, rice and beans, chips, Gerber puffs for kids, rice cereals for kids, apple sauce, fruit snacks, fruit cups, cake mix and frosting.

Additional items: New items (in all sizes) – socks, underwear, bedroom sheets, bathroom towels, hats, gloves and scarves. Napkins, facial tissues, garbage bags, sanitizer, dish detergent, cleaning products, bleach, Clorox Wipes, feminine hygiene products, baby shampoo, children's books, puzzles, new pots and pans, kitchen utensils, gift cards (Walmart, Target, Walgreens, Jewel, gas cards), copy paper, and pens.

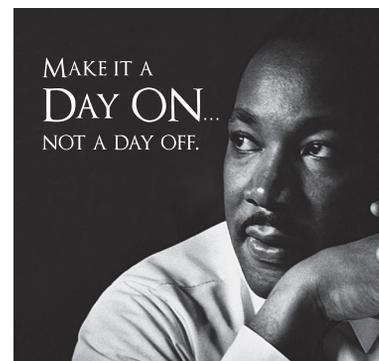
The Giving Continues with Our MLK Day of Service

This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service is on Monday, January 21. Make this a day ON, not a day OFF. We are seeking local non-profits to host service projects at your location on MLK Day. You think up the project and we will bring the volunteers to you!

In 1994 Congress declared Dr. King's federal holiday a National Day of Service.

Over the last two decades, millions of people have given back on this day. Since 2015, the Village of Flossmoor, along with our partners, has participated in the MLK Day of Service and this year we would like to create even more community volunteer opportunities by increasing the number of volunteer sites. Current project partners include the HFHS Multicultural Club, Flossmoor Service League, and Jack and Jill of America, South Suburban Chicago Chapter, but more opportunities are available and highly encouraged.

For more information or to sponsor an MLK Day service project, contact Laura Brennan-Levy at (708) 798-2300, ext. 5472 or via email at lbrennan-levy@flossmoor.org. You can also visit www.flossmoor.org to sign up!



flossmoor faces & places



Sweet Celebration for Lovely Lady

Though Helen and Rich Andersen have only called Flossmoor home for a handful of years, they quickly became known to their neighbors as the friendly and welcoming family who will open their home to anyone.

To the Flossmoor Police Department, Helen Andersen is the woman with the famous Harvey Wallbanger cake. That's because for the last two and a half years, Helen has baked and hand delivered treats to the Flossmoor Police Department every Thursday.

"After those police officers were killed in Dallas a few years ago, I wanted to do something special for our officers," said Helen.

Since Helen's not one to accept praise or recognition for the volunteer work that she's done most of her adult life, Helen's husband Rich decided he wanted to do something extra special for her birthday this year. So, he called Deputy Chief Tod Kamleiter to see if they'd be interested in joining him, his five children and grandchildren in celebrating Helen's birthday.

What Deputy Chief Kamleiter and the Flossmoor Police Department put together for that special day, said Rich, was beyond his wildest expectations.

"They were absolutely amazing," said Rich. "I told them that I would bring them a cake to give to her and Tod said, 'no, we'll bring the cake. We've got this.' That morning, they showed up with balloons and gifts, treats for our grand kids, with lights and sirens on. They really went above and beyond for what they did for her."

For Deputy Chief Kamleiter, Chief Mike Pulec and the entire Flossmoor Police Department, the gesture was a small display of their gratitude for Helen's continued support.

"She's pretty famous around here," said Chief Pulec. "We appreciate what she does more than we can say, so when we had a chance to do something nice for her, there was no question."

Not only did the Flossmoor Police Department's effort make Helen's birthday all the more joyful, it also rejuvenated her weekly tradition and inspired her to become even more involved in the community.

She's hoping her story might inspire a few of her Flossmoor neighbors as well.

"There's so much ugly in the world, I just wanted to bring a little joy," said Helen. "I hope there are others who want to do the same."

The Library Welcomes New Director



Jamie Paicely

When Jamie Paicely accepted the position as Flossmoor Library Director, she did so with a mindset that she feels strongly

represents the community she's joining – everybody's welcome.

Though she lives in Chicago Heights and spent the last six years at the South Chicago Heights Library District in Steger, Jamie is plenty familiar with the Village of Flossmoor. Her three young sons all play in the Flossmoor Baseball league, her husband used to work with the Village of Flossmoor, and they both have a great group of friends in the area. What Jamie has come to know and love about Flossmoor is exactly what she wants the library to represent.

"Libraries always feel like they are the heart of a community. I want everyone to feel connected to that," said Jamie. "Our doors are open and everybody is welcome. It's my goal to become even more engrained in this community so that people feel included in everything."

The belief that a library is the heart of a community is exactly why Jamie decided to study library science in the first place. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Indiana State University, she went on to earn her Masters of Library Science from Indiana University. While in Indianapolis, Jamie met her husband Chris.

With three sons and her husband, Jamie said she's used to activity and energy. It's her intention to channel some of that experience in revitalizing the energy people have for their library.

"I really want to ramp up our community outreach and welcome even more input from the community," said Jamie. "Their feedback is really

important to us."

One thing Jamie appreciates as she steps into her new role as Flossmoor Library Director is what her predecessors have left for her. Though she really enjoyed her time in Steger and is sad to say goodbye to her team, the opportunities available at the larger Flossmoor library make Jamie excited for the next steps. Among those next steps is helping to spearhead the rollout of a three-year strategic plan.

"It's exciting to be on the front end of this three-year plan," said Jamie. "The former director did so much to build the library up and the staff are so incredible. It's nice to have a foundation to rely on."

Along with the excitement, Jamie is also feeling the nerves and anticipation that come along with any new job. Because of that, Jamie's first goal is to make sure all library patrons feel proud of what they have in their community.

"It's their library. I'm just here to see that it's serving them well," said Jamie.

Go Green This Holiday Season!

The color green is synonymous with Christmas. Green holiday lights, green mistletoe, green elf hats, red and green sweaters, The Grinch; no matter which form the color green takes, it's hard to escape during the holiday season.

But, thanks to the dedication from the Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center, the environmental compassion from the Molski and Manos family, and the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, green isn't just a color during the holiday season – it's a way of life.

For nearly 10 years Irons Oaks and the H-F Park District have made a commitment to greening the holidays by hosting Christmas tree and holiday lights recycling centers. Since the tree recycling program was introduced in 2009, by the Molski and Manos family, Cheryl Vargo, manager at Irons Oaks, said they have collected and recycled approximately 5,900 Christmas trees, and nearly 9,400 pounds of holiday lights since starting that in 2011.

"Each year we get between 700 to 800 trees and about 1,000 to 1,200 pounds of lights to recycle," said Vargo. "When we started, we got around 400 trees and have steadily increased over the years. After we added the light recycling in

2011, we really saw our numbers add up."

Tree recycling collection will begin December 26 and will run through January 18, 2019. Trees can be dropped at the Vollmer Road parking lot at Irons Oaks. Proper disposal is critical to the future of the recycling program, so stacking instructions are available to participants at the lot. Trees must be undecorated, clean and properly stacked.

For those looking to dispose of unwanted holiday lights and power cords, collection has already begun and will continue until January 18, 2019. Collection bins can be found at the H-F Ice Arena, H-F Racquet and Fitness Center, the Marie Irwin Center and at Irons Oaks.

Once collected, the old Christmas trees are mulched on site and then used to pad the trails of Irons Oaks. As for the holiday lights, Vargo said they are shipped off to Elgin Recycling where nearly every element is stripped down and recycled.

So, when it's time to say goodbye to the holiday season and pack up the decorations, don't forget to pay Irons Oaks a visit and keep the benevolence going a little longer this holiday season.

business spotlight

Love, Noa Sets Up Shop Downtown

Kelly Evans loves clothes. She especially loves children's clothes. That realization came shortly after her daughter Noa was born, when her home became overwhelmed by little pink dresses and hair bows.



Of course, many of those clothes came courtesy of family and friends, but Kelly herself admits that having a daughter brought on an obsession with little girl's clothes that she didn't expect. So, instead of letting all those clothes go to waste as her daughter grew, Kelly decided to find a new home for them.

What started as a resale profile on Kidizen (like Poshmark for children's clothes) has evolved into a brick-and-mortar children's retail boutique in the heart of Downtown Flossmoor, a place Kelly has always wanted to call home.

"About seven or eight years ago my brother and I were hoping to open a shoe store in Downtown Flossmoor," said Kelly. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to find a spot back then, but I couldn't be more excited to be here now."

While the shoe store plan faded out as Kelly and her brother moved on to new ideas, the goal to eventually set up shop in Downtown Flossmoor never did. When she finally opened the doors to Love, Noa (1044 Sterling Ave.) this fall, it was a lifetime dream come true.

"We actually had a lease all worked up in Beverly to open the store and it just never felt right," said Kelly. "I can't imagine being anywhere else but here."

Visit www.shoploveno.com to check out all the clothing collections and to learn more about what's happening at the girl's boutique in Downtown Flossmoor.

New Look for Captain Hooks

Being at the heart of a bustling, high traffic shopping center has been a goal of Tareq Awad's for many years. He's finally making that goal a reality as he gets set to open the doors at his new Captain Hook's Chicken and Fish location (3760 Vollmer Rd.). After 15 years of calling Crawford Avenue home, Awad and his team are heading to the Southwestern business district of Flossmoor, nestling the long-time Flossmoor business between Starbucks and soon-to-arrive, Jersey Mike's.

"We've been wanting to go somewhere new and since our current building is changing hands, it was the perfect opportunity for us," said Awad, Captain Hook's owner. "It's a growing area and it will be a great location for us to increase our business."

Captain Hook's' new location will also increase accessibility for customers from around the area. Long-time business manager Theresa Holmes said she has welcomed customers from across the region for years. Now that the restaurant is smack dab in the middle of one of Flossmoor's fastest-growing business corridors, Holmes expects activity to build.

The new location may not be the only new thing coming to Captain Hook's, though. With the new look, Awad is also hoping to add a few new items to the menu. For those customers who've come to know and love Captain Hook's signature fish and chicken, catering options, and high-quality food and family friendly prices, not a thing will change.

"Our priority is always to take care of our customers," said Awad. "They can expect great service and great food at Captain Hook's, now with even more convenience than before."

Find that Special Something at Maxine's Boutique

Not sure what to get that special someone this holiday season? Brenda Livingston at Maxine's Boutique (3321 Vollmer Road) has what you need. As Flossmoor's choice women's boutique, Maxine's features a wide range of one-of-a-kind clothing items, accessories, handbags and shoes.

With unique collections of the season's hottest looks, Maxine's offers the fashion-forward women of Flossmoor options in casual and evening wear from brands from across the world. For those who struggle to find that perfect item for your spouse or loved one, not to worry. Brenda has a few ideas to share.

"Our customers know us, and we know our customers," said Brenda. "So, this is an easy place to shop for loved ones. You find out what she's looking for, and we'll take care of you."

Find more information at www.maxinesboutiques.com.

school spotlight

Volunteers and students come together every Friday for the Mathletes after-school program at Western Avenue Elementary.



Mathletes Take the Challenge at Western Avenue

Learning in Flossmoor School District 161 comes in a variety of forms. From digital interface learning, to collaborative group activities, to establishing positive classroom behavior and school-wide culture, students of all learning levels have something to rely on in District 161.

When Western Avenue parent and Prairie State College mathematics professor Dr. Natalie McGathey thinks about beneficial learning techniques, she thinks about programs and activities that encourage learning outside of the classroom. That's exactly why she started looking at alternative ways to support her children's mathematics skills, specifically looking at mathlete competitions. Western Avenue Principal Dr. Lisa Dallacqua loved the idea.

"From an instructional perspective, it is important for children to see mathematics in applied settings. Children need an opportunity to play with numbers using puzzles, patterns, and logic games," said Dallacqua. "The way in which math is being presented to the children [in mathletes] is different from what they see in a traditional math curriculum and it will help stretch their thinking in ways that we couldn't stretch before."

While math competitions and math leagues are prominent across the United States and the world, the only well-known regional program that District 161 kids could participate in is the South Cook Math Bowl. But, the competition is exclusive and is limited to only a handful of top-performing students at each grade level. Wanting to ensure students of all ages, skill level and experience had a chance to participate in math competition, McGathey approached Dallacqua about bringing a mathletes program to Western Avenue.

"I think I said something like 'I'd really like to start a mathlete program, is this something you'd be interested in

having at Western?'" said McGathey.

About a month later, Dallacqua and McGathey had attracted nearly 60 students and two dozen parent and teacher volunteers to oversee the program. For Dallacqua, the mathlete program symbolizes more than just an opportunity for students to improve math practices, it opens the door to alternative learning techniques that can apply to a wide range of students.

"Mathletes is an important program because it is completely free and all children are welcome," said Dallacqua. "The only other time our kids have an experience like this is when we have the [South Cook] Math Bowl, and not all children are allowed to participate in Math Bowl. Mathletes creates more equity with access to an after-school enrichment program that otherwise would not exist."

During their weekly meetings, the Mathletes at Western Avenue use collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving to work through practice materials and sample questions from Math Kangaroo USA. In March, students in grades 2nd through 5th will participate in the first-ever Math Kangaroo competition at Western Avenue. Though it is a competition by definition, the true goal of mathletes and the Math Kangaroo contest is to reinforce the lessons being taught at Western Avenue and to make kids excited about math. Since it has been such a hit at Western Avenue, McGathey hopes it motivates other parents and administrators to bring mathletes or other educational enrichment programs to their own schools.

"It's pretty easy for a school to host one of these Math Kangaroo contests," said McGathey. "We would love to open our program to more kids, but we just don't have the [physical] space to do it. So, I would encourage other schools to start something like this. It's fun and relatively easy to set up and the kids love it."

NEWS TO USE!

ComEd Lowers its Rate

The current ComEd rate was recently reset BELOW our aggregation program rate. The current ComEd rate is 7.29¢. The Village's current program rate is 7.538¢. Residents can return to the lower ComEd rate at any time, with no early termination fee. To do so, call Dynegy Energy at (844) 351-7691. Be sure to have your ComEd account number available when you call. This will save the typical residential electrical customer \$2 per month.

This does not affect the provision of your electrical service in any way; your electricity is delivered by ComEd and you will always be billed by ComEd.

When the Village renewed its aggregation program in the summer of 2018, ComEd had published its annual residential rate of 7.76¢ per kilowatt hour. The Village received numerous bids to renew its program and selected the lowest rate of 7.538¢ per kwh from Dynegy. Months later, due to a settlement with the Illinois Commerce Commission, ComEd unexpectedly adjusted its rate downward to 7.29¢. This rate will be in place through May 2019.

How do I know if this affects me? You can determine whether you are part of the Village's aggregation program by looking at your ComEd bill. If you see Dynegy Energy under the supply side of your bill, you can save \$2 per month by calling Dynegy to return to ComEd.

Why did ComEd reset its rate? ComEd is part of a multi-state group of electrical utilities and all customers are charged a flat rate that covers the cost of transporting power. Regulators determined that ComEd customers were paying more than their fair share for this cost, thereby subsidizing customers on the East Coast. ComEd's new lower rate is a way of reimbursing customers for past overpayment.

Will the Village's rate be adjusted downward? No. The Village negotiates fixed rates for the duration of its contracts and asks its suppliers to bear the risk of regulatory changes during its contract. As such, the Village rate will not change. The Village is also not able to transfer all residents back to ComEd.

Will the Village have an aggregation program in the future?

It is unlikely that the Village will have an aggregation program in the future. In the past, ComEd was locked into higher priced contracts for the purchase of power; alternative suppliers could be more competitive while ComEd was locked into those contracts. Now, ComEd has more competitive rates that are likely to be as low, if not lower, than alternative suppliers.

Budget Calendar

The Village's operating budget is the annual implementation plan of the Village's vision and goals. Each year, the Village adopts a new budget prior to the start of its fiscal year on May 1. The purpose of the budget is to align financial resources with the operating needs of the Village. The Village's budget is discussed in an open and transparent process at a series of Village Board meetings leading up to its adoption in April 2019. You can be a part of the Village's annual budget process by attending those meetings.

The draft budget will be presented and discussed at Village Board meetings on March 4, March 18 and April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall. The budget document will also be available on the Village's website and the Flossmoor Public Library for public review during that timeframe. A formal public hearing will be held on April 15 prior to the budget's adoption.

House Watch

Leaving town this winter or holiday season? Call the Flossmoor Police Department to keep an eye on things while you're away! The Flossmoor Police Department House Watch Program allows residents who are leaving town on business or vacation to notify the Police Department and request additional patrols. Officers will periodically conduct security checks of the residence, which include ensuring all exterior doors are locked, and there has been no apparent damage or entry into the home.

Although this does not guarantee that your home will not be damaged or burglarized, the House Watch Program does give you some added protection. It is encouraged however, that you plan accordingly with a family member, friend or neighbor to also check on your home while you're away.

In order to offer the added patrol, Flossmoor Police officers ask participants to make sure driveways and walkways are cleared of snow and ice. It is also important to establish a key holder (family member, trusted neighbor, friend, etc.) while you are away. The key holder provides additional access for police officers while patrolling your property. For more information about the House Watch Program or to complete an application, visit www.flossmoor.org.

Truck Plan

On Monday, November 19, 2018, the Village Board approved a motion directing the Plan Commission to hold a public hearing on a proposed text amendment to the Village's Zoning Ordinance that, if adopted, would allow pickup trucks to park in residential districts in Flossmoor.

The motion on the November 19 agenda was the first step in response to the results of the advisory referendum of November 6, in which voters of Flossmoor voted in favor of loosening the restrictions on pickup truck parking. The Plan Commission will now hold a public hearing on the draft amendment during the December 20, 2018 Plan Commission meeting. The public hearing at the Plan Commission level is legally required under state statute in order to proceed with the Zoning Ordinance amendment.

The draft amendment defines the permissibility of personal use trucks not only by plate (B plate or less) but also by look or description. The memo to the Board and the text of the draft amendment is available on the Village's website.

Residents are invited to attend all Village Board meetings, but the Plan Commission public hearing will be the official opportunity for residents to comment on the amendment. Following the public hearing, the Plan Commission will vote on a recommendation for the Board, which will then hold the final vote to amend the Zoning Ordinance.

Holiday Shopping Tips

Parking Lots

- If possible, park near parking lot lights.
- Back into spaces when possible for faster egress if it becomes necessary, better field of vision to avoid crashes. Don't rely solely on back-up sensors.
- Write down, store in your phone, etc. parking area if in a large lot. Use panic button on key FOB to help locate your car or draw attention if there are suspicious subjects around you or your car.
- Have keys ready before approaching your vehicle. Don't unlock it until you are within a few feet.
- Stow packages in trunk if possible or place on the floor covered with a blanket if you are going to multiple places to shop.
- Make sure money and credit cards are securely in your purse or wallet before existing the store.

In Store Shopping

- Do not leave a purse, wallet, phone or small children unattended/open in a cart while shopping in another aisle.
- Be aware of distraction tactics used by thieves, or the bump and grab (phones, loose money, wallets, small change purses) in back pockets.
- Thieves steal even when uniformed police officers are there in an on/off duty capacity and even when there are visible cameras all around.

At Home

- Bring packages in through a closed garage when/if possible.
- Break down boxes (i.e. TVs, computers, anything of value) and place in cans or bags for trash pickup.
- If you have a Christmas tree near a window with gifts underneath, close blinds, shades, etc. when no one is home.
- Lock doors, windows, garage doors, car doors, during day and night, whether home or not.

Package Delivery

- Schedule deliveries when someone is home to receive them.
- Request signature on delivery.
- Have mail held at post office if you will be out of town.
- Request to be added to the house watch list if traveling.
- Keep in mind, thieves follow package delivery trucks.
- Use ring door bell or other surveillance options.



Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoor.org

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**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS 60422**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Paul Braun

I hope that this message finds you and your family well and you are enjoying the holiday season.

As a continuation of regular collaboration and communication, area stakeholders recently joined together during an intergovernmental Homewood-Flossmoor meeting. Included in this meeting were representatives from the Homewood and Flossmoor police departments; Homewood School District 153 and Flossmoor School District 161; Homewood-Flossmoor High School; and

the Village of Flossmoor.

The priority of this and all ongoing intergovernmental collaborations, is the continued alliance between Homewood and Flossmoor, other surrounding communities, and area stakeholders to continue to build vibrant, diverse and safe schools and communities.

This commitment includes continued inner-agency communications and collaboration to provide for families in need of resources and opportunities, including but not limited to parental support, community-engagement events, after-school programming, and other community-based support programs.

Working together as a multi-faceted group, which includes not only governmental, school, and police representatives, but eventually representatives of other area agencies and local non-profit organizations, these continued conversations between intergovernmental agencies are aimed to build and support the needs of our communities and schools, in whatever form it takes.

We ask that residents help us to support this mission by getting involved, being good neighbors, cooperating with local law enforcement, supporting local programming, and advocating for those in need.

Together we can continue to make Flossmoor the welcoming, beautiful and connected community we all know and love.

Happy Holidays to all!

Paul S. Braun
Mayor



Another successful Winterfest is in the books! A huge thank you to the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department Corporation, the Flossmoor Public Library, the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Janet Gustafson, the H-F Choir, our local Girl Scouts, Village trustees and staff, and, of course, all of you for making it another great year.