

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Winter 2019
Volume 29 / Number 3



PHOTO BY COLIN THOMAS AT THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHIC.

GET OUT AND PLAY THIS WINTER

Amanda, Ryan, Sloan and Ryder Kelly enjoy an afternoon visiting the H-F Park District's nature center, Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center.

Get Going
*Embrace Winter
Fitness Flossmoor!*
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Stay Safe
*Wise Winter
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Community Pride
*Hidden Gem
Shines Brightly*
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village officials

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Diane Williams, Trustee
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Ananda Billings, Clerk
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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.



#Flossmoor365

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

November 30

Small Business Saturday — All Day | Village-wide

Make a dent in your holiday to-do list! Show your support by shopping local. Celebrate Flossmoor's small businesses and all they have to offer. Hosted by the Flossmoor Business Association in partnership with the Village of Flossmoor.

December 7

Santa Pictures with Pets — 1:00-2:30 PM | Flossmoor Park

Get your pets up close and personal with the man in the big red suit by having professional pictures taken with him before Flossmoor Winterfest.

December 7

Flossmoor Winterfest — 2:00 -5:00 PM | Flossmoor Library & Flossmoor Park. Family activities at Flossmoor Library and businesses start the celebration. Get photos with Santa at the library then stroll with Santa to Flossmoor Park to light the tree and menorah.

December 14

Pizza & Pasta with Santa — 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM | Wiley's Grill
Santa Claus is coming to Wiley's Grill for pizza and pasta! Get in the spirit with holiday music, photo ops with Santa and delicious food! Tickets are \$13.95 for adults and \$7.95 for kids. Reservations are required by calling (708) 957-8774.

December 15

Brunch with Santa — 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM | Wiley's Grill
Santa Claus will be at Wiley's Grill for brunch and photos with families. Bring your own camera to get photos with Santa and enjoy brunch with family and friends! Tickets are \$18.99 for adults and \$10.95 for kids (ages 3 to 12). Reservations: (708) 957-8774.

December 15

Skate with Santa — 1:00-2:30 PM | H-F Ice Arena
Enjoy a special opportunity to take the ice with Santa Claus just days before Christmas! Bring along the kids and a camera to capture these holiday memories. Tickets: \$6. Skate rentals: \$4.

December 31

Noon Year's Eve Party — 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM | Wiley's Grill
Wiley's Noon Year's Eve Party features a red carpet, DJ and dancing, face painting and party favors, light snacks and a kiddie cocktail bar plus a special balloon drop. Limited tickets are available for \$5 per person at the Goldberg Administration Center at (708) 957-0300.

January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service — All Day | Various Village sites
Community-wide day of service hosted by the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission. Service projects located at Village Hall and various local sites. Visit www.flossmoor.org for details.



STAYING FIT THIS WINTER

Cross country skiing at Irons Oaks is a great way to get active.

Since the early 1960's when Brian Hyland's *Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini* landed atop the Billboard Hot 100, people have worked to get that "perfect summer body." Through the decades, those messages were enhanced by summer body workout programs, summer diets and "beach body" advertising.

The truth is, winter is one of the most important times of year to care for your body, both mentally and physically.

According to Dr. Rewa Hasanat, Family Medicine and Primary Care Physician at UChicago Medicine at Ingalls, exercising in cold weather has shown to burn double the fat, due to a peptide, sarcolipin, found in muscles that are activated during exercise in cold temperatures.

"Just because it is cold outside does not mean you cannot exercise outside," said Dr. Hasanat. "Cold temperatures can improve endurance, since in colder temps your heart does not work as hard, therefore, you sweat less and expend less energy, which in turn allows one to exercise more efficiently."

One of the best physical activities to engage in during winter is ice skating, as it works out multiple muscles in the body and engages the cardiovascular system. The H-F Park District is making sure the community is getting the most out of its ice-skating experience by improving the outdoor rinks at Flossmoor Park.

In the past, the Park District would have to wait until the ground at Flossmoor Park froze in order to set up the outdoor ice rink. Starting this winter, however, the Park District is improving the outdoor ice rinks with vinyl liners and surround boards that will allow the rinks to be used longer and more often this winter.

"These vinyl-lined rinks are more durable and participants will be able to skate longer on them throughout the winter," said Darren Jasieniecki, H-F Parks District Marketing and PR Manager.

Not only do ice skating and other winter activities like cross-country skiing, sledding, even snow shoveling, have significant physical health benefits, they also provide significant mental health benefits during the cold and dark season.

Dr. Cheriece Ward, a psychiatrist at Grand Prairie Services and a graduate of Homewood-Flossmoor High School said that research has indicated that a daily run or walk can reduce the the risk of major depression, relieve tension, stress, and anxiety, and is effective in improving concentration, memory and mood. Additionally, said Dr. Hasanat, research has shown that 30 to 60 minutes of exercise and 20 minutes of sunlight each day can help people try to manage seasonal affective disorder (SAD), something medical professionals often see during the winter months.

So, staying active, spending time outside, and being aware of seasonal changes to the body and mind are the best ways to enjoy a great winter season, added Dr. Ward.

"Physical activity boosts the brain's dopamine, norepinephrine, and serotonin levels which aids in regulating mood and anxiety," said Dr. Ward. "Exercise also helps to regulate your stress hormones and can assist with the relaxation of muscles and relieves tension in the body. So, focus on activities you enjoy, make it a family activity and have fun."

For more winter activities to enjoy with family, visit www.hfparks.com or www.ironsoaks.com, and keep an eye out for additional activities across the community.

flossmoor faces & places

Meet Your New Police Chief: Tod Kamleiter

In October, Tod Kamleiter officially accepted the position of Flossmoor Police Chief, filling a five-month vacancy left by retired Police Chief Mike Pulec. Kamleiter was chosen from a competitive pool of candidates following a recruitment process by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. In Flossmoor, the position of Police Chief is a mayoral appointment with a confirming vote by the Board of Trustees. The position reports on a day-to-day basis to the Village Manager. The Village Board of Trustees unanimously selected Kamleiter, who joined the Flossmoor Police Department in 1996 as a patrol officer.

“Chief Kamleiter has proven himself an important asset to the Village of Flossmoor and left myself and the Village trustees with little question that he would be the right fit as the next Chief of Police,” said Mayor Paul Braun.

Prior to serving as acting police chief, Kamleiter worked under Pulec as Deputy Chief for six years. Additionally, Kamleiter held the positions of detective and patrol sergeant with the Flossmoor Police Department. Kamleiter is an Air Force veteran having served a combined nine years on active duty and active reserve. Prior to the Village of Flossmoor, he worked for the Indiana Department of Corrections for six years.

Kamleiter holds a bachelor’s degree in Police Administration from Calumet College of St. Joseph and a master’s degree in Public Administration from Governors State University.

He is a graduate of the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command and has received other training from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, Kentucky.

“My entire career has been geared toward the goal of one day leading the police department,” said Kamleiter. “I have been very fortunate to have been mentored by some outstanding leaders in the department and the Village administration during this time. These relationships and professional connections will be a true asset to my new role as the Chief of Police. The Village of Flossmoor and its residents are very important to me and I’m humbled that the Mayor and Board of Trustees have chosen me to carry out their vision for the Police Department’s service to the community.”

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel added, “Chief Kamleiter has championed many of the department’s community policing programs, contributing to positive community relations. His tenure managing the police liaison program at Homewood-Flossmoor High School while he was a sergeant has resulted in a trusted partnership between the police and schools. Tod understands the challenges of policing today and will lead our department with our values and an attitude of guardianship over our community.”

Chief Kamleiter’s replacement as Deputy Chief will be named in the near future.

Nickie Brookens Joins the Village of Flossmoor as Program and Events Coordinator



Nickie Brookens

The Village of Flossmoor filled the Program and Events Coordinator vacancy after hiring long-time Homewood resident Nickie Brookens. The part-time position is responsible for the planning

and organization of Village events and acts as the liaison between the Village and its volunteer-based commissions.

“Nickie’s work in the non-profit sector, especially her experience in event planning, is a huge asset to the Village,” said Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager.

In addition to joining the Village of Flossmoor, Brookens serves as the Founding Executive Director of PLAN-4Success Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides educational, social and cultural experiences for teens and young adults in the Chicagoland area.

As the Program and Events Coordinator, Brookens said her experience and skills working with volunteers, community partners and event planning are

assets to the new role.

“My volunteerism has afforded me the qualifications to function well in this role,” said Brookens. “I look forward to the continued work of building programs that bring people together to have fun, serve and realize we have more in common than we think.”

Brookens’ volunteer experience also includes working with Homewood School District 153, serving on the University of Chicago Laboratory School High School Council, and partnering with Girls 4 Science.

Brookens holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University and an Executive Coaching Program Certificate from the University of Chicago.

10 Shared Principles Adopted by Flossmoor Police

On March 22, 2018, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) signed a historic agreement on 10 shared principles of policing. This is the first of its kind in the nation and is the result of four years of discussion following the aftermath of the Ferguson, Missouri riots. The Flossmoor Police Department recently joined 152 other Illinois law enforcement agencies in signing a dedication committing to the 10 Shared Principles.

The 10 Shared Principles represent a vow between the two statewide associations "by mutual affirmation to work together and stand together in our communities and at the state level to implement these values and principles, and to replace mistrust with mutual trust wherever, whenever, and however we can."

The Flossmoor Police Department has adopted these 10 Shared Principles as its own and has added its name to the historic agreement between the Illinois NAACP and the ILACP. In early October, the first ever World Café Summit was presented to high school students at H-F High school, an initiative led by Chief Mitch Davis, of the Hazel Crest Police Department and member of the executive board of the ILACP, and Dr. Jerry Anderson, Principal of Homewood Flossmoor High School. Flossmoor Police Chief Tod Kamleiter and members of the Flossmoor Police department were also active participants in the groundbreaking presentation.

These are the Ten Shared Principles:

1. We value the life of every person and consider life to be the highest value.
2. All persons should be treated with dignity and respect. This is another foundational value.
3. We reject discrimination toward any person that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, nationality, immigrant status, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or familial status.
4. We endorse the six pillars in the report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The first pillar is to build and rebuild trust through procedural justice, transparency, accountability, and honest

recognition of past and present obstacles.

5. We endorse the four pillars of procedural justice, which are fairness, voice (i.e., an opportunity for citizens and police to believe they are heard), transparency, and impartiality.



Hazel Crest Police Chief Mitchell R. Davis, Flossmoor Police Chief Tod Kamleiter and H-F High School Principal Jerry Anderson sign the declaration adopting the 10 Shared Principals of policing.

6. We endorse the values inherent in community policing, which includes community partnerships involving law enforcement, engagement of police officers with residents outside of interaction specific to enforcement of laws, and problem-solving that is collaborative, not one-sided.
7. We believe that developing strong ongoing relationships between law enforcement and communities of color at the leadership level and street level will be the keys to diminishing and eliminating racial tension.
8. We believe that law enforcement and community leaders have a mutual responsibility to encourage all citizens to gain a better understanding and knowledge of the law to assist them in their interactions with law enforcement officers.
9. We support diversity in police departments and in the law enforcement profession. Law enforcement and communities have a mutual responsibility and should work together to make a concerted effort to recruit diverse police departments.
10. We believe de-escalation training should be required to ensure the safety of community members and officers. We endorse using de-escalation tactics to reduce the potential for confrontations that endanger law enforcement officers and community members; and the principle that human life should be taken only as a last resort.

NEWS TO USE!

Patience Please as Public Works Clears our Roads!

Snow removal often takes a few hours after a storm has stopped to clear Flossmoor's roadways, and can take even longer during heavy or extended snowfalls. When driving, please give snowplows plenty of room. Large plows take longer to stop, have multiple blind spots, and make frequent backing maneuvers. Do not step out in front of a snow plow or attempt to get a driver's attention.

Salting of streets in the Central Business District and along principal routes, key intersections, hills and curves is conducted whenever icy or slippery conditions become hazardous. Snowplowing begins when snow accumulation amounts to more than two (2") inches. Plowing continues as long as required to maintain passable roadways. Plowing priorities are as follows: Central Business District, principal arterial streets, collector streets and parking lots, local through streets, and cul-de-sacs and alleys.

Please be aware that some major roadways are not under the Flossmoor Public Works jurisdiction and are therefore not plowed by the Village. These include: Crawford Avenue, Governors Highway, Western Avenue, Dixie Highway, Kedzie Avenue, Vollmer Road, Holbrook Road, Flossmoor Road and Crawford Avenue to Governors Highway.

Also, keep in mind that you can help the Village during snowfall by considering these suggestions when clearing snow from your property:

- If possible, shovel driveway aprons only after roadways are completely cleared. This will eliminate the need to shovel more than once.
- Pile all snow away from the edge of the road on the right side of the driveway as you face the street. Should the snowplow make an additional pass after you have shoveled, it will not push the same snow back into your driveway.
- Do not push snow into or across the street. This not only creates an additional hazard, but also may result in the same snow being deposited into your neighbor's driveway should the snowplow make an additional pass.
- In order to make pedestrian travel safer and easier for everyone, clear snow and ice from the walks adjacent to your property.
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants to permit easy access in the event of an emergency.

Winter Tree Pruning Cycle

The Village of Flossmoor's annual tree pruning cycle begins this winter on the southeast side of the Village, starting from the east side of Flossmoor Country Club extending from Flossmoor Road south to Vollmer Road. This is an annual treatment in which trees in a different section of the Village are pruned.

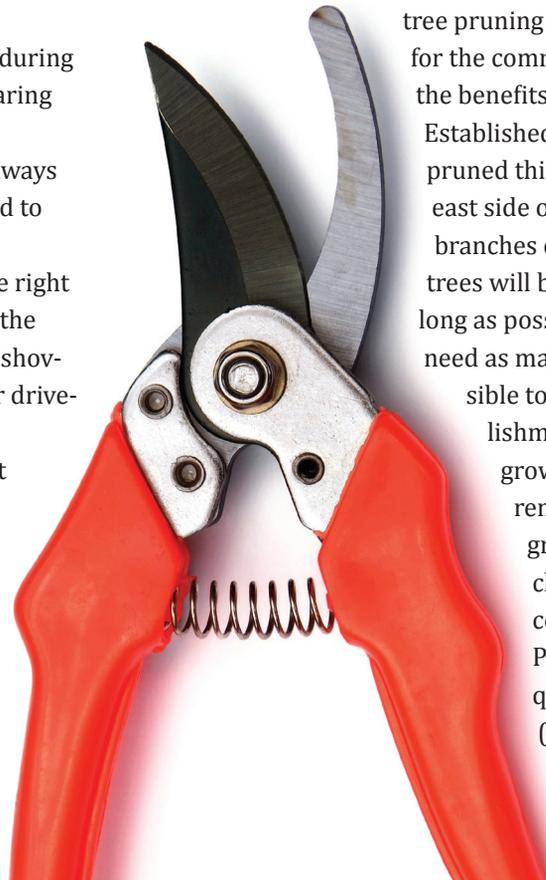
Tree pruning helps promote tree health by removing dead, damaged and diseased branches. This removal is essential as insects and diseases are attracted to dead and/or damaged branches. Removing diseased branches also helps reduce the spread of the disease further into the tree or to other nearby trees.

Another important aspect of pruning is the removal of low branches for clearance. Especially during the winter months, it is important that streets feature enough vertical space for large trucks, like snowplows, to pass through easily. Removing low branches can also help reduce foliar diseases on trees and shrubs. Foliar diseases thrive in the dense lower branches because of the high humidity and low airflow condition.

Trees that are properly pruned help promote tree health, which helps maintain a safe urban forest. Annual

tree pruning cycles help reduce risk for the community, while increasing the benefits trees provide.

Established parkway trees will be pruned this winter in the southeast side of Flossmoor. Lower branches on small and younger trees will be left on the tree as long as possible. Younger trees need as many branches as possible to promote root establishment and increase trunk growth. Branches will be removed as soon as they grow big enough to cause clearance issues. Please contact Flossmoor Public Works with questions or concerns (708) 957-4100.



Knox Box Program

The Flossmoor Fire Department utilizes the "Knox Box" key storage system to gain rapid, non-destructive access to your residence or business. Only the Flossmoor Fire Department is able to gain access to the Knox Box. These boxes are secure, may be connected to your burglar alarm system, and are listed by Underwriters Laboratory. Commercial and residential key boxes can be ordered directly from the Knox Box website, www.knoxbox.com. The size and type of box are based on your needs.

All buildings, except residential buildings having less than four units, are required to have a Knox Box in accordance with the Village of Flossmoor Code of Ordinances.

Should you change the locks to your business or home, contact the Fire Department at your earliest convenience to make arrangements to change the key(s) inside your Knox Box. If you have questions about a Knox Box or want to learn more please contact the Flossmoor Fire Department at (708) 798-3885.

Remember to Park on the Safe Side

Remember this winter about restricted parking across the Village of Flossmoor. As always, parking is not permitted on the hydrant side of the street and parking is restricted on all Village streets after 2 inches of snowfall. With regard to the limitation of parking, keep in mind the following:

- Areas signed around Western Avenue, Heather Hill and Flossmoor Hills Schools continue to operate with school parking regulations that exists to accommodate school drop off and pick up.
- Parking around churches and parks is regulated by non-hydrant side regulations and any signage that exists.
- Several streets in the center of the Village have time limit parking to dissuade commuters from parking on Village streets all day. No parking is allowed on the hydrant side of those streets, and the time limit is in effect on the non-hydrant side.

House Watch Program

The Flossmoor Police Department House Watch Program allows residents who are leaving town to notify the Police Department and request additional neighborhood patrols. Officers will periodically conduct security checks of the residence, which includes ensuring all exterior doors are locked, and there has been no apparent damage or entry into the home.

Although this is not a guarantee that your home will not be damaged or burglarized, it gives you some added protection. We encourage you to make arrangements with a family member, friend or neighbor to also check on your home. Patrol Officers are not responsible for picking up the mail, newspapers or deliveries.

This program is not only specific to residents who are going out of town but is also used by victims of crimes. There are times in which additional patrol security is needed after a resident has been the victim of crime or has the potential to become a victim. Complete and return the House Watch Application Form, which can be found at www.flossmoor.org, to the Flossmoor Police Department.



Trim the Tree ... Then MULCH it!

Since 2009, Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center has accepted and recycled old Christmas trees.

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.

For those looking to dispose of unwanted holiday lights and power cords, 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, they are shipped off to Elgin Recycling where nearly every element is stripped down and recycled.

According to Elgin Recycling, the raw materials in holiday lights — specifically the copper wiring — is used for a wide variety of things like plumbing hardware and computer electronics.

So, when it's time to say goodbye to the holiday season and pack up the decorations, make it a green holiday season and choose to recycle! Tree drop off starts on December 26 at Irons Oaks' Vollmer Road parking lot and lights may be dropped off any time now.

school spotlight

Flossmoor School District 161 Earns High Ratings on Illinois School Report Card

Flossmoor School District 161's state ratings continue to trend upward with two of its five schools being named in the top 10 percent in the state. Heather Hill Elementary School and Western Avenue Elementary School both received "Exemplary" summative designations on the annual Illinois State Report Card, earning exclusive status as top Illinois schools.

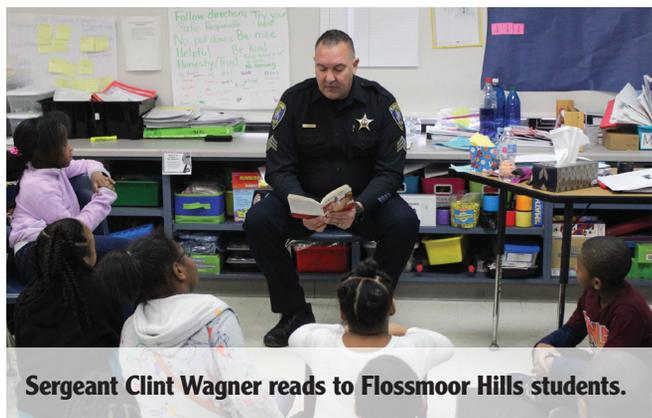
In addition to earning exemplary status for the two schools, District 161's other schools, Flossmoor Hills Elementary, Serena Hills Elementary and Parker Junior High School, all earned "Commendable" ratings. According to the state data, a commendable rating or higher indicates that there are no underperforming student groups in the school.

The 2019 state report card reveals that students across District 161 are demonstrating growth and proficiency at an increasing rate.

The progress of Western Avenue and Heather Hill to improve to Exemplary, and Parker's advancement to Commendable after an Underperforming rating last year, reflects the District's investment in elevating its educational standards, improving proficiency in reading and math, and meeting the needs of all students.

The annual Illinois Report Card provides a detailed look at each school's progress from year to year by measuring growth in academics, student success, school culture and climate, financial investments and chronic absenteeism.

One School, One Story: A Community Reading Program at Flossmoor Hills



Sergeant Clint Wagner reads to Flossmoor Hills students.

important skill to have," said Schildknecht. "We want to instill habits at home that help parents figure out what to do with their children to improve reading proficiency."

An offshoot of the national One District, One Book program created by Readtothem.org,

Our School, Our Story allows students at Flossmoor Hills to explore a shared reading experience with their families, fellow students, teachers and even members of the community. Additionally, each chapter of the shared book is accompanied by activities to be enjoyed in-class and at home with families.

"We try to find books that are relevant to all grade levels so that students can connect with kids outside of their classrooms," said Schildknecht. "It really promotes a love of literacy when kids can go home and talk to their parents and siblings who are all reading the same book together."

Which is the whole purpose of Our School, Our Story, said Rusk.

"It becomes this common vocabulary across the school. Any staff member, any kid can connect over the same book and it really creates this excitement across the entire school," said Rusk.

The program became such a success at Flossmoor Hills when introduced three years ago, that administrators at the District 161 office decided to expand it across the entire district by implementing the One District, One Book reading program.

Flossmoor Hills still maintains Our School, Our Story independently of the District-wide program, culminating with the finale during national reading week. When the nearly two-month reading activity ends, not only do students get to share in the excitement of finishing the book, but they get to celebrate with community readers and a special family reading night.

"When the police chief comes in, when the fire chief comes in and reads to them, the kids get very excited to see 'oh, he's reading the same book as I am,'" said Cochran. "It's a great way to create common interests across age groups, across demographics, and across the community."

One of the most frequent questions the reading specialists at Flossmoor Hills Elementary Schools hear is "how can I get more involved in my children's school work at home?"

For Michelle Schildknecht, Sarah Rusk and Lisa Cochran the answer is simple. Read with them.

According to research, community and family reading programs are linked to significant gains in reading proficiency and reading comprehension, which is exactly why Schildknecht, Rusk and Cochran introduced the Our School, Our Story program at Flossmoor Hills.

"When it comes to standardized tests, reading proficiency is such an



PHOTO BY JOHN KELLEY.

Runners pass through the H-F High School cheerleading spirit team as they participate in the inaugural Hidden Gem Half Marathon.

HIDDEN GEM SPARKS COMMUNITY PRIDE

It is rare that a community welcomes more than 500 people to its streets on a Saturday morning, but for the organizers of the Hidden Gem Half Marathon, it was exactly what they were hoping for.

As an organization, the Hidden Gem Half Marathon committee created the event as an opportunity to showcase the Village of Flossmoor and all of the “hidden gems” that are scattered about the beautiful community.

“We had a lot of objectives for wanting to bring something to our community and a half marathon allowed us to check all the boxes,” said committee co-founder Tom Dobrez. “We wanted people to come see the Village and show them the kind of spirit that exists here, and the half marathon delivered on all of that.”

While the spirit of the Hidden Gem Half Marathon was to showcase the community, Dobrez and race coordinator Sam Cutrara quickly realized that in order to pull off a great event, the logistics and race course needed to be perfect.

For elite racer and inaugural winner of the Hidden Gem Alan Peterson, the race delivered.

“Overall, I really enjoyed the race,” said Peterson. “I wasn’t sure what to expect with a new race but the atmosphere of the neighborhoods and all of the people spectating was great. It was very similar to the Chicago marathon.”

That theme echoed frequently on race day, with many participants, who similarly to Peterson used the race timing as a tune-up before the Chicago Marathon, complimenting the community volunteers and race organizers on the energy of the race.

The community volunteers and race sponsors are what made the event possible, and especially successful, said Cutrara.

“When I look at this thing, there are a handful of key elements that made it so successful,” said Cutrara. “The generous sponsors, the support we got from the volunteers, the Village and Police Department being a big piece of that, were such a crucial element of us bringing this community together and creating a spectacular event.”

The Hidden Gem’s success also garnered the attention of the Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) which named the Hidden Gem as one of its signature CARA Circuit races. According to Cutrara, the CARA Circuit only features about 10 races statewide, which he expects will significantly increase the attention of next year’s Hidden Gem race.

For Cutrara and Dobrez, that means another opportunity to highlight the community they have known and loved for decades.

“I’ve lived in this town for 25 years, raised my 6 kids here, and the [Hidden Gem] was another great day in Flossmoor,” said Cutrara.

business spotlight

Sixty Years of Shearlings: Kluger Furs Continues to Keep Flossmoor Warm



Larry and Sue Kluger have enjoyed 30 years as a one-of-a-kind business in Flossmoor Commons.

Sixty years in business is a celebration for any entrepreneur. Sixty years in business as a one-of-a-kind fashion retailer is an even bigger accomplishment.

Though originally opened in 1958 in Homewood by Rudi and Ruth Kluger, Kluger Furs (3303 Vollmer Road) has been a destination in Flossmoor for the last 30 years, serving generations of customers from across the Chicagoland area. And, for good reason, said Larry Kluger, son of Rudi and Ruth and second-generation owner.

"There are not many furriers around anymore so people come from all over to see us," said Larry Kluger. "We've become a signature destination and we couldn't be happier to be in Flossmoor."

Part of the business' longevity comes from the high-quality of service customers receive from Kluger Furs and the one-of-a-kind merchandise that it offers.

As a premiere shearlings and leathers retailer, Kluger Furs is often recognized for featuring one of the largest selections of furs, leather jackets, accessories and more, in the industry. Much of that comes from Sue and Larry's interest in showcasing variety in their store, but also from their ability to customize orders and revitalize generations of furs into brand-new designs.

"Furs are often handed down from generation to

generation and have been a part of people's families for decades," said Sue. "But, the styles change every generation so people need versatility."

Versatility that is displayed in a number of ways on the racks at Kluger Furs. From reversible shearlings with dual-tone designs, to men's leather jackets with fur lining treated two ways, there's really something for everyone at Kluger

Furs. Add to that a massive selection of accessories and children's items, it is rare that someone leaves Kluger Furs without the item they're looking for.

The best part of when a customer does leave Kluger Furs with the item of their dreams, they become a lifelong member of the Kluger Furs family.

"When you take good care of a fur, it can last for decades," said Sue.

One of the most important elements of caring for fur is proper storage. Because of that, Kluger Furs boasts two vault-style storage spaces that are temperature and humidity-controlled. Additionally, Kluger Furs can repair or restore most material damage, but when the damage is too extreme, Larry and Sue take to the redesign team and create custom pieces from the remaining materials. Kluger Furs also boasts a custom rental program that offers customers fur rentals for their most important occasions. Often utilized for weddings, black tie affairs, or other elegant occasions, fur rentals are a great way to test the waters of wearing fur and to dress up even the most lavish outfits.

So, pay a visit to Kluger Furs this winter season to explore the world of shearlings and leathers, and to experience one of Flossmoor's longest-standing family-owned businesses.

business spotlight

Flossmoor Animal Hospital Cares for Your Pets

Staff at Flossmoor Animal Hospital (19581 Governors Highway) care as much about their patients as pet owners do, which is why the 25-year-old, family-owned Flossmoor business wants their customers to be as prepared as possible this winter. Pet lovers know that their furry friends can often require some extra care when the temperature dips below freezing. But, it is not only cold temperatures or winter materials that threaten pets during the winter months. The holiday season often features a number of potential toxins and hazards that can make pets sick, or worse.

Dr. Raechel Willard, owner of Flossmoor Animal Hospital, said the best way for pet-owners to protect their four-legged loved ones is by educating themselves against potential harms.

For instance, certain types of holiday house plants like poinsettias, mistletoe and holly should be kept away from pets whenever possible as they can cause gastrointestinal upset leading to nausea, diarrhea and vomiting. One particularly dangerous bloom is the lily. Various types of lilies that are found in holiday flower arrangements can be potentially deadly to cats, so think twice when ordering those winter blooms.

Other potential hazards around the holiday season include electrical cords and holiday light strings, Christmas tree water, which can house bacteria, glass ornaments, and especially ribbon or tinsel. Dr. Willard recommends that families with indoor pets avoid using tinsel or other ribbon-like materials to trim the tree, and instead opt for more natural decorations.

As a longtime Flossmoor business, Flossmoor Animal Hospital staff have seen the tragic effects of winter poisons. One of the most dangerous winter poisons is antifreeze, because the substance often has a sweet, pleasant taste. But, when ingested by animals, even the smallest amounts can be lethal. According to Dr. Willard, as little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat and less than four teaspoons can be dangerous to a 10-pound dog or smaller.

To prevent potential antifreeze poisoning, especially for dogs who spend time outdoors, clean-up any spills, store antifreeze in tightly sealed containers, and keep out of reach of pets.

The most important part of keeping pets safe this winter is being alert and attentive to their behaviors. With four exam rooms, a full, in-house laboratory and a surgical unit, among other services, Dr. Willard and her staff are capable of handling most emergency situations. After hours, she encourages pet owners to contact the ASPCA Animal Poison

Control Center at
1-888-426-4435.



commission corner

Reduce Waste this Holiday Season

1. Plan Proper Food Portions and Eat Leftovers — Stock up on reusable containers to freeze leftover holiday meals, send them home with family and friends, or look for creative recipes to reuse them. Reducing annual food wasted by just 15% could feed 25 million Americans.
2. Buy Locally Sourced Foods — Support local farmers and farmer's markets by buying as much of your holiday ingredients locally.
3. Pack with Popcorn and Wrap Right — Use popped popcorn in zip-lock bags to cushion gifts for shipping. Gift recipients can then eat it or use it to top soups or to make baked goods. Choose plain wrapping or tissue paper that can be reused, recycled or composted.
4. Send Electronic Holiday Cards and Drive Smartly — Sending e-cards in lieu of paper cards can save 45 gallons of gas and reduce emissions. When shopping, drive to your furthest destination first to allow your engine to fully warm up and run more efficiently.
5. Recycle your Tree — Keep Christmas trees from going to the landfill by recycling it for wood chipping at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center.

Getting Connected with Community

Each year, the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission hosts a booth at Flossmoor Fest, welcoming new and existing residents to the fest. This year, guests had the opportunity to drop a pin — literally — into a map of Flossmoor to show where they live. The pins indicated whether the Village is meeting its goal of connecting with residents in every Flossmoor neighborhood. The pin map showed a concentration of residents in central Flossmoor, with fewer pins dropped in neighborhoods like Ballantrae and southeast Flossmoor. Did you come to the Fest? Next year, be sure to stop by the Community Relations booth so your neighborhood is represented. The nine members of the Community Relations Commission represent all neighborhoods of Flossmoor and they want you to be connected to the Village. The best way to stay connected and up-to-date on Village happenings is by signing up for our email newsletter at www.flossmoor.org or by following us on social media.

Village of Flossmoor

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Flossmoor, IL 60422

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Paul Braun

Greetings, Flossmoor!

As always, I hope that this finds you and your family well. As we wind down 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the Village's priorities for infrastructure. Driving around Illinois, we all see the state of our infrastructure and the massive financial investment needed to repair our crumbling roads and bridges. In Flossmoor, we're no different. In 2017, the

Village Board and staff, with the help of outside engineers, conducted a study of every street in town. We learned that the total cost to rehab our streets would be approximately \$20 million dollars. Funds received by the Village paid for by the State of Illinois' Motor Fuel Tax revenues have dwindled to \$150,000 per year – hardly enough to support an investment of this magnitude.

There is some positive news to share on the street rehabilitation program. This year the Flossmoor Public Works Department completed the resurfacing of 1.55 miles of streets and sidewalk repairs using \$150,000 from the Motor Fuel Tax revenues and \$250,000 from the Village's General Fund. Using the General Fund for street maintenance this year was made possible because of our terrific residents' wisdom in passing the non-home rule sales tax in 2018. A big round of applause goes out to our Public Works staff who work tirelessly to maintain our streets by patching and filling potholes, all within budget. Our Public Works Director John Brunke also deserves recognition. As a professional engineer, John saves the Village thousands of dollars each year by completing engineering, design and construction

supervision in house.

The other piece of positive news for the Village's street maintenance program is that the State of Illinois finally woke up to the urgency of the statewide infrastructure issue and the State Legislature passed a massive capital bill last spring. While it is still unknown exactly what amount of funds the Village will receive, we do expect that the Village will receive some direct grants through our state legislators, which Village staff and I continue to push.

While no one likes to pay more at the gas pump, the State increased the Motor Fuel Tax by 19 cents per gallon this year. As a result, the Village anticipates receiving substantially more money than recent years that will continue to be earmarked for the Village's street rehabilitation program. Additionally, the State of Illinois authorized non-home rule communities such as Flossmoor to pass a local gasoline tax of three cents per gallon that will likely go into effect in January. Flossmoor and, as expected, all of our neighboring communities passed this tax. The Flossmoor Village Board stipulated that all local gas tax funds must be spent on road maintenance. We have begun discussions on formulating a comprehensive road plan targeted to begin in 2021; stay tuned for more information on how we can make this happen.

Finally, the Village Board and I know that many residents suffered significant financial and sentimental losses due to the flooding that took place on September 27th. Know that while village street maintenance is a priority, our stormwater system is just as important. Our staff continues to actively pressure Cook County, the State of Illinois and our individual state legislators for assistance. We will continue to look for every funding opportunity available to improve our stormwater system and prevent future floods.

In closing, on behalf of the Village Board of Trustees, Village Staff, and I, we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and good health and happiness in 2020.

— Paul S. Braun
Mayor of Flossmoor