

# FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Spring 2020  
Volume 29 / Number 4



PHOTO BY AMY KENT.

## FUTURE LEADERS BUILT IN FLOSSMOOR

**HF Robotics Tech Ninja Team practice at the Homewood Science Center in preparation for their competition at the Illinois State FIRST Tech Challenge tournament in February.**

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# village officials

**Paul Braun, Mayor**  
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**Brian Driscoll, Trustee**  
bdriscoll@flossmoor.org

**Perry Hoag, Trustee**  
phoag@flossmoor.org

**James Mitros, Trustee**  
jmitros@flossmoor.org

**Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager**  
bwachtel@flossmoor.org

**Gyata Kimmons, Trustee**  
gkimmons@flossmoor.org

**Joni Bradley-Scott, Trustee**  
jbradleyscott@flossmoor.org

**Diane Williams, Trustee**  
dwilliams@flossmoor.org

**Ananda Billings, Clerk**  
abillings@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.



#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

## April 3

*Flashlight Egg Hunt — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 8 to 9 p.m. / Irons Oaks Vollmer Lot. Try this twist on the traditional egg hunt! Goody-filled eggs have been left in the forest at Irons Oaks. Decorate a unique basket first, and then head outside in the dark to find the eggs. \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents. Register early for this popular event.*

## April 4

*HF Community Clean-up and Tree Planting Day — 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Various Locations around Flossmoor.*

## April 17

*Adult Egg Hunt — 8 to 10 p.m. / Irons Oaks Main Office  
Eggs will be hidden along the trails at Irons Oaks so bring your own flashlight and basket. Awards will be given for the most creative basket and best hat! Don't miss out on the beverages, laughter and fun. Register at hfparks.com.*

## April 18

*Flossmoor Baseball & Softball Parade — 9:30 a.m. / Parker Junior High to Flossmoor Park fields. Come cheer on our community kids as they parade through town ending at Bronco Field for first pitch to start the season.*

## April 18

*New Resident Event — 4 to 6 p.m. / Flossmoor Library  
Join the Village of Flossmoor, Flossmoor School District 161, Homewood-Flossmoor High School 233 and other Village stakeholders for an evening of camaraderie, information and fun.*

## April 19-25

*Library Week*

## April 22

*Earth Day — Join the Flossmoor Green Commission for a day of green initiatives.*

## May 2

*Recyclepalooza — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. / Parker Junior High Parking Lot*

## May 9

*Shred Event — 9 to 11 a.m. at Village Hall. Sponsored by Flossmoor Green Commission, Flossmoor & Homewood Libraries.*

## June 3

*Hidden Gem Half Marathon Citizen's Meeting — 7 p.m. / Flossmoor Library. Support The Gem! You are invited to hear the latest update on year two of Flossmoor's little race that is now the talk of Chicago's running community.*

# HF ROBOTICS MAKING ITS MARK AT STATE

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) is an international program that challenges children to solve complex problems using critical thinking, trial and error, and computer programming, among other things. It's an immersive educational experience that is categorized in three levels based on age, which is exactly why Michelle Nelson and Mark Matthews wanted to introduce it to their children. What came after, they weren't necessarily expecting.

When the program started, Nelson and Matthews were hosting practices and training sessions in Nelson's garage, basement and, essentially, her entire house.

"I literally had kids in every corner of my house," said Nelson.

But, the things they were creating were overwhelmingly impressive and made every extra pizza order worth it.

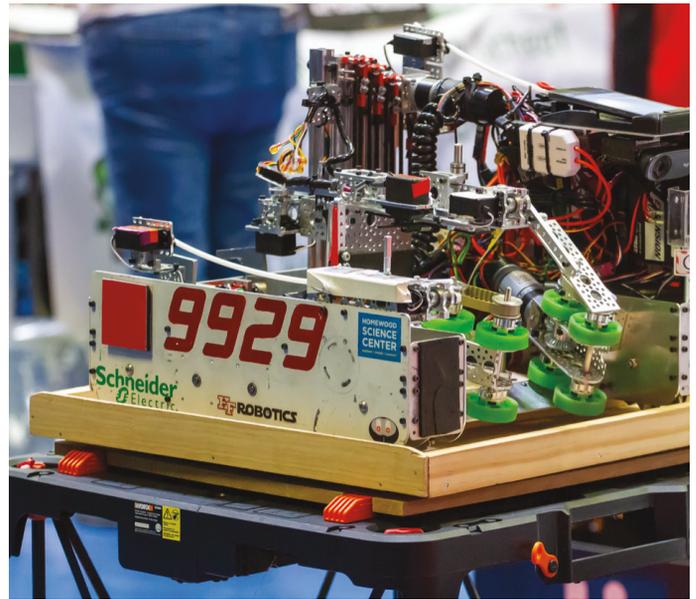
What inspired Nelson and Matthews to introduce the FIRST programming to their students came a lot from their own personal experiences. As a programmer himself, Matthews appreciates that his children and their peers are being introduced to complex science and technology lessons at a young age. Likewise, Nelson's husband Cameron, a mechanical engineer, knew the knowledge their children would gain through a program like FIRST would be exponential.

What FIRST offers to HF Robotics teams is more than just the programming knowledge or mechanics of robotics. According to Matthews, it also requires logical explanation and presenting arguments to judges, working together with other teams across the state, and problem solving when attempts one, two and three are unsuccessful.

"FIRST puts a lot of emphasis on the kids doing the work themselves," said Matthews. "The important part of this is trying and if it doesn't succeed then you try again. A lot of these kids are good in school and are used to having a "right answer." When they take on these challenges, there isn't a "right answer;" there are multiple right answers."

FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge, the two leagues represented by HF Robotics teams, are often only found in schools. But, by introducing FIRST as a community-based program, HF Robotics is able to expand their age groups.

While HF Robotics' FLL team is strictly for grades fourth through eighth, the FTC team has students ranging from seventh grade to seniors in high school. The other benefit, said Matthews, is since the group is not associated with a



**HF Robotics Tech Ninja Team's robot is affectionately named W2F-70 in honor of Woodie Flowers, a former MIT professor and instrumental figure in the founding of FIRST, who died last year.**

specific school, they can also welcome home-school students into the team.

Currently, the HF Robotics FLL team has 10 competitors while the FTC team can have up to 15. Unfortunately, said Nelson, the area HF Robotics needs the most help with is recruiting additional mentors and coaches.

"Having the mentors that we have and the knowledge they share are the only reason we can still do this. Unfortunately, not all of our mentors will be able to stick around when their kids graduate," said Nelson. "We're always in the market for new mentors. That doesn't mean they need to be experts from a technical aspect. There is a lot that we can teach and we need support from experts in a range of particular fields."

HF Robotics meets twice a week at the Homewood Science Center, though sometimes more frequently depending on the competition schedule. The FLL competition season runs from August to December, while the FTC competition season runs from August until February.

This year, HF Robotics' FTC Tech Ninja Team made it all the way to the state tournament where they faced off with more than 20 different teams from around the state. Though they didn't earn a top 10 finish, the team is back to work and will be hosting scrimmages and tournaments in the south suburbs to continue strengthening the south suburban competition.

For more information about HF Robotics, to sign a student up or to volunteer as a mentor or sponsor, visit [www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/hfrobotics](http://www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/hfrobotics) or contact Nelson or Matthews at [info@hfrobots.com](mailto:info@hfrobots.com).

# flossmoor faces & places

## Flossmoor Recognized African-American Artists for Black History Month

For the third year in a row, Flossmoor dedicated Black History Month to recognizing inspirational and impactful African-Americans in our community.

This year, in collaboration with the Community Relations Commission, the Village celebrated the arts and the artists who have impacted the community through their artistic mediums. These artists included writers, painters, producers, musicians and dancers.

Included in this year's recognition were multi-award-winning author Nnedi Okorafor; corporate video producer and creative director Phil Lee; Joffrey Ballet dancer and budding actress Alyssia Duda; local business owners, musician and designer Tony and Chogie Fields; local photographer Kimberly Mitchell; and Homewood-Flossmoor High School graduate and current Chicago painter, Ashley Gardner.

Black History Month is a time to honor the triumphs and excellence of African Americans and their allies in our community. The Village of Flossmoor is proud to celebrate Black History Month by reflecting on the local artists, past and present, who have impacted Flossmoor and the people who call it home. Visit [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org) to view all of our Black History Month profiles.



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Just Keeps Growing

Hundreds of volunteers flocked to Flossmoor and all across the south and west suburbs for this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, making it one of the most successful days of service in the six-year history of the program.

During this year's MLK Day of Service, volunteers served more than six communities throughout the south suburbs, extending as far west as Orland Park and as far north as the Dan Ryan Woods at 8th and Western Avenue through 21 different service projects.

These projects ranged from serving the homeless and senior living facilities, to removing invasive plants and seed sorting to beautify the community. One of the largest projects took place at Flossmoor Village Hall, where the Jack and Jill of America, South Suburban Chicago Chapter connected hundreds of community members through a food drive to benefit Rich Township and Alicia's House food pantries.

Other projects included collecting baked goods to deliver to emergency service agencies across the region, collecting and delivering toiletries for local homeless shelters, donating used LEGOs to the LEGO Replay organizations, and many more. Thank you to all the project hosts, volunteer groups, families and individuals who participated in yet another successful MLK Day of Service and to the organizations and sponsors who make it better each year.

## Recyclepalooza 2020!

It's so easy being green in Flossmoor, thanks to the community-wide Recyclepalooza extravaganza! Clean out your closets, garage, attic, basement and cupboards for all types of recyclable items and bring them to Recyclepalooza from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday May 2 in the parking lot of Parker Junior High.

### Recyclable items include:

- TVs (\$20 per set)
- Electronics
- Metals\*
- Ink/laser jets
- Bikes
- Clothes (gently used)
- Sporting goods
- American flags
- Plastic bags/wrap
- Hotel shampoos & soaps (new)
- Small household items
- Crayons & markers
- Batteries

Recyclepalooza is sponsored by the Village of Flossmoor Green Commission, HF Area Green Committee, H-F Chronicle, Homewood and Flossmoor Libraries and Homewood Disposal.

\*For a complete list of recyclables visit [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org).

## Installing Overhead Sewer Systems

As many residents experienced last September, flooding is a reality in Flossmoor, and in some cases, that can cause sanitary sewer back-ups. In an effort to reduce these issues and to make the rainy season less damaging to residents, the Flossmoor Public Works Department is encouraging homeowners to consider installing overhead sewer systems.

At the heart of many of these basement flooding issues is aging sewer systems, both public and private. During rainy weather, there are occasions in which rain water is collected in sanitary sewers and overloads the Village-wide system. The collection of rainwater is due to infiltration and inflow.

With infiltration, groundwater seeps into the sanitary sewer through cracks and breaks in public and private sewer lines, some of which are more than 50 years old. Inflow, however, is caused by illegal clean water connections to the sanitary sewers, such as downspouts, sump pumps, footing tiles and drains. Infiltration and inflow in the sanitary sewer

system are major contributors to sewer backups, especially for homes that still utilize a gravity drainage system.

By updating private sewer systems to overhead, residents can eliminate the threat of sewer backups in their basements but the cost can range anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000. While it does present an unexpected cost to homeowners, the damage of sewer backups can be significantly higher.

Before committing to the repair, however, Flossmoor Public Works Director John Brunke encourages residents to first check with their insurance companies about different policies or add-ons that can protect homeowners from flooding and sewer backups.

Brunke also encourages residents to contact a reputable plumber to learn what sewer system is inside their homes and to gain a better understanding of what their options are for improvement.

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## Flossmoor Police Department Leadership Roster Expanded

Flossmoor Police Chief Tod Kamleiter finalized the expansion of the department's leadership by appointing former Administrative Sergeant Clint Wagner to Deputy Chief and former Sergeant Keith Taylor to Police Commander.

"These appointments are part of the larger picture we're creating for succession planning," said Kamleiter. "By putting people in the right positions, we start to get a clear direction for the future of the department and the Village will have options to promote from within, if it chooses."

Wagner, who joined the Flossmoor Police Department in 2001, previously served as the department's Administrative Sergeant, but assumed the position of Deputy Chief following Kamleiter's appointment to Chief. Kamleiter spent six years as Deputy Chief working under now-retired Police Chief Mike Pulec.

During his career with the Flossmoor Police Department, Wagner has risen through the ranks after being hired first as a patrol officer, then assuming the roles of shift leader, sergeant and administrative sergeant. Prior to joining the Flossmoor Police Department, Wagner worked at the Chicago Heights and Sauk Village Police Departments.

In addition to appointing his Deputy Chief, Kamleiter also spearheaded the creation of the Police Commander position and the appointment of Taylor.

"Clint and Keith both possess their own skills and strengths when it comes to administrative and supervisory functions," said Kamleiter. "They also share my vision when

it comes to community engagement and building partnerships with the residents of the village, which is an important element to a strong leadership team."



**Deputy Chief Wagner**



**Commander Taylor**

According to Kamleiter, following a review of the Department's upper level command structure, he recognized the need to adjust the role and responsibilities of the Administrative Sergeant, as it no longer reflected the previous job description. By eliminating the position and replacing it with the role of Police Commander, Kamleiter feels the responsibilities are more properly aligned.

With the change, the Police Commander will now oversee all patrol functions as a direct supervisor to patrol sergeants and staff, as well as provide high-level assistance to the Deputy Chief and Police Chief.

Taylor joined the Flossmoor Police Department in 2009 as a patrol officer, after working a number of years as a Cook County Sheriff's Department correctional officer and drill instructor. Taylor also served four years of active duty as a Military Police Officer in the United States Navy.

# NEWS TO USE!

## Vehicle Sticker and Animal Tags

2020 vehicle stickers must be purchased and displayed by Wednesday, April 15. For all vehicles registered to a Flossmoor address, including leased vehicles, company cars and vehicles kept outside of the Village, you are required to purchase and display a current Flossmoor vehicle sticker in the lower right-hand corner of the front windshield.

Residents may purchase vehicle stickers in a variety of ways. Please make checks payable to the Village of Flossmoor.

- Village Hall (2800 Flossmoor Road) Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In-person credit card payments accepted.
- By mail (stickers will be mailed): Village of Flossmoor, 2800 Flossmoor Road.
- Drop Box: Located in the parking lot of the Village Hall (stickers will be mailed back to you, cash payments not accepted.)
- Village Hall Lockbox: Located inside the Police Department (stickers will be mailed back to you, cash payments accepted.)
- Schedule of Fees: Cars \$40 with Seniors 65 and older receive 1 sticker per household at \$15), Trucks — A or B \$40; Over B \$65, RV \$40 and Motorcycles \$20

Animal tags for your dogs and cats must also be purchased by April 15, 2020. Applications are included with the vehicle sticker renewal form sent to all households. Visit [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org) for more information.

## Openlands Tree Grant Program

The Village of Flossmoor is inviting qualified homes to participate in the 2020 Openlands tree grant program. All trees are provided by Openlands at no charge and planted at specific parkway locations in the Flossmoor Hills neighborhood. The Flossmoor Green Commission, Flossmoor Public Works Department and volunteers will plant the trees. Planting trees is a wonderful way to add beauty and enhance property values to your home and community.

- Most trees will have  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" diameter trunks.
- Openlands will select tree species.
- A diverse selection of trees will be planted that are appropriate for the location.
- Trees must be watered by the resident with 15-20 gallons (3-4 large buckets full) once a week, May-October during the establishment period (3 years).
- Residents are encouraged to help plant trees on the scheduled planting day (TBD).
- Resident information must be gathered by the village before the grant is approved by Openlands. The Village of Flossmoor and Openlands makes no guarantee a tree will be planted on your parkway.
- Trees are limited to the first 40 tree requests.

For those homes that qualify, residents should contact the Flossmoor Public Works Department at (708) 957-4100 to request a free tree, while supplies last.

## Water Bills

Water bills are mailed quarterly. A third of the community is billed each month. Keep these dates in mind so you know when to expect your bill. If you're worried your bill hasn't arrived, call Village Hall and we'll provide you with your balance.

- Account number begins with "01": Bill is mailed on the 25th of January, April, July and October.
- Account number begins with "02": Bill is mailed on the 25th of February, May, August and November.
- Account number begins with "03": Bill is mailed on the 25th of March, June, September and December.

Bills are due 28 days after the mailing date and are subject to increasing late fees if not paid.

## Brush Collection Program Changes

Beginning this spring, Flossmoor Public Works will consolidate its brush collection schedule and pick up the entire Village one week a month throughout the duration of the program. All branches should be put out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on the Monday of the first FULL week of each month. The brush collection schedule is as follows: April 6 – April 10 | May 4 – May 8 | June 1 – June 5 | July 6 – July 10 | Aug. 3 – Aug. 7 | Sept. 7 – Sept. 11 | Oct. 5 – Oct. 9.



# school spotlight

## Prairie State College Nursing Program

Five-hundred thousand people. That is the anticipated number of seasoned, registered nurses expected to retire in 2022.

In order to combat the projected nationwide nursing shortage, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a need for more than 1 million new registered nurses to not only replace those retirees but to also support an expanding healthcare system.

Conveniently, Prairie State College can get its nursing students through the program and into those much-needed positions in just two years.

“We are the number 17 nursing program in the state,” said Dr. Marie Hansel, Dean of Nursing at Prairie State College. “That might not seem impressive on paper, but that’s out of more than 70 nursing programs in two-year, four-year and private institutions.”

The reason for Prairie State’s impressive standing is simple, said Hansel.

“We have some of the best nursing faculty in the entire state.”

With a student to teacher ratio of about 8 to 1, Prairie State College contends with some of the nation’s top nursing schools as it compares to hands on learning. Not only that, but Prairie State’s nursing faculty apply some of the most intensive and accelerated teaching practices in the entire college.

One such teaching tactic is supplemental instruction, a component of the high-intensity nursing program that allows students to move through four years of nursing instruction in only two. It offers hands on training, after-class tutoring service built directly into the curriculum, and in-depth analysis of testing.

That not only keeps the information fresh and relevant in relation to current medical standards, said Dr. Hansel, but it also provides students a smooth transition into the working world or into a desired specialty practice.

A big reason Prairie State implements such intensive teaching strategies is because despite only attending the program for two years, graduates of the nursing studies program at Prairie State are required to pass the same boards as a four-year graduate. But, that hasn’t stopped the majority of Prairie State’s nursing graduates.



**Angela Simpson, Associate Professor in Nursing at Prairie State College works with her student, Alondra Leon during an IV training demonstration in the nursing program at Prairie State College.**

“Approximately 57-percent of our graduates enroll in a BSN [Bachelor of Science of Nursing] program,” said Hansel. “The remainder go directly into the workforce.”

A workforce that offers some of the most diverse opportunities in the world, including in-home care, hospice care, 24-hour nursing, emergency service, independent practice, international healthcare and traveling nursing, to name a few.

The adaptability of the nursing industry has led it to becoming one of the most respected professions around, said Hansel. That’s also why it is one of the most heavily recruited professions in the nation.

“Nursing has really come a long way,” said Hansel. “Baby boomers were the largest generation of nurses in the profession, but now that they’re set to retire, we’re looking at a huge nursing shortage on the horizon.”

Which makes nursing one of the most employable professions in the medical field.

For those interested in enrolling in Prairie State’s nursing program, early admission is key as the program currently only accepts around 95 students. Though the program is working toward expansion, that shouldn’t discourage students from enrolling today, especially high school age students. Currently Prairie State accepts up to seven transferable credits directly out of high school.

More information can be found at [www.prairiestate.edu](http://www.prairiestate.edu) or by contacting an admissions representative at (708) 709-3500.

# business spotlight



**Gloria Ford is the owner of Glow Salon & Spa, a new luxury salon and spa that recently opened in the former Marc Alan space.**

## Glow Salon and Spa

Offering customers a one-of-a-kind pampering is goal number one for Gloria Ford, owner of Glow Salon. As a third-generation salon owner, that was an important lesson she learned from her mother.

Now that she has opened up a new location in the former Marc Alan salon (3319 Vollmer Rd), she is able to stretch her salon to its full potential.

“It’s always been a dream of mine to have a large space to carry on my mother’s legacy,” said Ford. “I am confident that I can fulfil all of my goals here.”

Glow Salon’s move to Flossmoor comes after nearly eight years of Ford operating the business in Hazel Crest. When it was announced that Marc Alan would be vacating the space, Ford knew that it would be the perfect location to expand her business. With that expansion, Ford is planning to not only offer traditional salon and spa services, like

massage, skin and nail care, and styling services, but she’s also planning to introduce her own line of products.

By offering a full-service salon and spa, with a signature product line, Ford’s intention with her relocation is to offer a luxury experience for new and existing customers.

“Self-care is so important and we want to be part of making our clients feel whole,” said Ford. “It’s very important that our clients enjoy their time and leave here feeling refreshed and replenished.”

Glow Salon is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday. Ford and her stylists are currently accepting clients at the new location in Flossmoor Commons. To book an appointment, call (312) 545-4248 or visit [www.glow-salonspa.com](http://www.glow-salonspa.com).

## Shared Space Sparks Business Downtown

Business ownership had long been a dream for Vicki and Ryan Stevenson and Morgan Sullins, but the commitment and financial responsibility to making that dream a reality came with understandable fears.

So, that’s why the two of them decided to flip traditional entrepreneurship on its head and combine forces. What on paper seems like a quintessential odd couple, a real estate agency (HF Homes/Exp Realty) and home-decor boutique (Gypsy Fix), has bloomed into a unique experiment and a beautiful business partnership.

The partnership came after Sullins and Stevenson worked together staging houses to be sold through Stevenson’s former real estate agency, Coldwell Banker. When Stevenson saw the talent that Sullins possessed she

knew that her business plan would do well in Flossmoor.

“I’ve worked with Morgan professionally for a number of years and she’s incredibly talented,” said Vicki Stevenson. “We’re a great team, all of us working together. I don’t think it would work for any of us if we were independent.”

As it stands now, the business located at 1044 Sterling Ave., is split into thirds with HF Homes occupying the front, window space, Gypsy Fix assuming the central, main retail space of the building, and a third office built into the back area for an independent practice.

While each business operates independently, the three occupy the space harmoniously. Though Stevenson and Sullins admit each of their businesses could operate without any physical space at all, it was important to them to be vis-

ible and part of the Flossmoor community. Which is why when they entered the space, before announcing any type of “grand opening” they wanted to maintain transparency and welcome people into the new business.

“We wanted people to see what we were doing,” said Sullins. “We wanted them to get excited about something moving in. And, a lot of people were curious, stopping by every couple of days to see what was going on.”

Though both businesses are open and operating, a grand opening isn’t expected until sometime this month. What’s important to Stevenson and Sullins, is that people recognize the unique people and businesses in Flossmoor, and how this new shared space, entrepreneurship model can really expand ***Shared Spaces continued on page 10.***

## Economic Development on the Horizon in Flossmoor

Boosting economic development in the south suburbs is a huge priority for many regional officials. Which is why a group of nearly a dozen elected officials, economic developers, private business people and other stakeholders, representing 46 Cook County communities, came together to create the Southland Development Authority.

The new group, which was developed over the course of two years and officially launched in December, was put together to not only recruit economic development to the southland, but also as a partnership to reduce the sometimes-harmful competition that can accompany economic recruitment.

By partnering together, said Diane Williams, Village of Flossmoor Trustee and co-chair of the SDA board, the opportunities for development become significantly more attractive because each community can offer something different.

“The fact that we now have a single place that developers can come to and we can point them to the right place, which has the right resources they need, we become a much more appealing area,” said Williams.

During the SDA’s first board meeting in December, the organization identified three primary areas of focus for economic recruitment: food

processing, metals and machinery, and logistics.

The reason for that prioritization, said Williams, is because businesses working in those industries have already established themselves in the south suburbs.

“When business owners or developers see that they have partners or potential partners already established in a region, that becomes yet another reason they look at developing in that area,” said Williams.

Despite not having an abundance of property available for development, Flossmoor is perfectly positioned by *Econ Develop continued on page 10.*

## Dolye Designed Celebrates 25 Years in Flossmoor

Hair styles change constantly, with new trends coming at consumers from every angle. What used to be hair style catalogues turned to celebrity magazines. Now, consumers scroll through Twitter or Instagram to see the hottest trends.

Doyle Sims has seen those trend changes for nearly three decades as a hairstylist and business owner in Flossmoor. He’s seen every trend from the good to the bad, to the ugly, and he’s stood by his clients’ sides every step of the way. That experience and professionalism prepared him for the longevity and success that he enjoys today.

Sims opened his salon, Doyle Designed (2630 Flossmoor Road), in January of 1995 after years of working in different salons across the south suburbs and in the City of Chicago.

“I worked in different salons so that I could learn about different hair textures and build a strong clientele,” said Sims. “I was able to build a very diverse clientele that embraced my talent and professionalism, who are still with me to this day.”

When he realized how committed his clients were to his work, Sims decided to venture out and create an environment all his own.

In starting his own salon, Sims was granted the freedom to not only explore product development, but to also offer additional training opportunities to local stylists. So, he



created his own education center.

“I did education in the salon for 20 years and I also did a lot of stage work to give cosmetologists CEU hours required to renew their licenses,” said Sim.

While he no longer offers the educational element at Doyle Designed, that added free time has allowed Sims to expand his signature product line. With more than 15 different branded products, created by Sims and his product team in California, there’s something for everyone at Doyle Designed. Not to mention, styling and service experience of more than 30 years. Visit Doyle Designed online at [www.doyledesigned.com](http://www.doyledesigned.com) to view the signature product line and a complete list of services offered at the Flossmoor salon.

*Shared Spaces continued from page 8.*

the opportunities for the vacant spaces Downtown.

"The success of the Village is just as important to us as the success of our businesses," said Ryan Stevenson. "We want to create more reason for people to be here and to visit here, but if you don't take part in the community then you're not fully vested in it. I think we are all fully vested."

To see some of the designs featured at Gypsy Fix visit [www.gypsyfix.com](http://www.gypsyfix.com) or stop by the new retail location in Downtown Flossmoor. HF Homes/Exp Realty can be found at [www.hf-homes.com](http://www.hf-homes.com).

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*Econ Develop continued from page 9.* surrounding communities to benefit greatly from the snowball effect expected to be created by the SDA partnership.

The example Williams often works off of is the concept of bring a food processing innovation park to the south suburbs.

For instance, she said, if one of the SDA partner communities were to attract a food processing or manufacturing facility, then secondary business would follow, either in the same community or another surrounding community.

Those businesses hire staff, who then buy homes and become area consumers. As a traditionally thought of "bedroom" community, that is exactly the kind of development that Flossmoor stakeholders would be eager to welcome.

"Our communities are all so close together, you're really only talking about a few minutes from one community to the next," said Williams. "As an organization, we are working on sector strategies to identify, collect and build the resources that these businesses are looking for so that we all can benefit from the economic growth."

## commission corner

### Flossmoor Sculpture Program Continues to Grow

The Flossmoor Sculpture program continues to expand with two new scheduled for installation this month. The two newest sculptures to be added to the nine permanent and seven rotating sculpture gardens in Flossmoor will be the first installed in Balantrae. "The Mount" and "Totem" by artist Terry Karkpowicz will remain part of the program for three years and then will be returned back to the artist and replaced by the next rotation of sculptures.

The Flossmoor Sculpture Gardens was established in 1998 through private donations and an Illinois FIRST grant. Since that time, the Flossmoor Village Board and the Flossmoor Public Art Commission have maintained their vision of making Flossmoor home to a rotating exhibit by encouraging and support the growth of the number of sculptures across the community.

The Flossmoor Public Art Commission is a volunteer assemblage of appointed residents selected by the Flossmoor Village Board of Trustees. The Commission is responsible for making recommendations for the acquisition and locations for placement within the Village of appropriate pieces of outdoor art. In addition, the Commission is responsible for community outreach and fundraising for the Flossmoor Sculpture Garden.

### Volunteers Wanted for Green Commission

The Flossmoor Green Commission is looking for volunteers who are interested in gardening and would like to help with the Flossmoor Seed Library. Those who are interested in helping grow the Flossmoor Seed Library, in partnership with the Flossmoor Public Library, should email Carrie Malfeo at [cmalfeo@gmail.com](mailto:cmalfeo@gmail.com).



### New Resident Event in April

The mission of the Community Relations Commission is to serve as a liaison, conduit, facilitator, and communicator among and between the Village and its residents. Its goal is to create community connections and an authentic sense of belonging in Flossmoor.

During April of each year, the Community Relations Commission holds a New Resident Event to introduce new residents to the many services, businesses and restaurants in the community. This year's event at the Flossmoor Library on April 18 is the second time the Village and the Library have collaborated to welcome residents. Last year's event was well received and very successful; resident feedback was exceptionally positive.

The Community Relations Commission invites all new Flossmoor residents to connect with the Village, Flossmoor Library, Flossmoor School District 161 and Homewood-Flossmoor High School District 233 during this year's New Resident Event. Join other new residents to meet community leaders and learn how to get involved. Enjoy prize drawings, take-away bags, and samplings from Flossmoor restaurants. Also, get connected to the Village of Flossmoor online at [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org) for bi-weekly e-newsletters, periodic email messages and alerts from the Flossmoor Police Department, or on social media on Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.

# FLOSSMOOR COUNTS! THE 2020 CENSUS IS COMIING

The 2020 United States Census is taking place this month throughout the United States. Will you be ready to respond this month when your 2020 Census invitation arrives in the mail? Be prepared with the answers to frequently asked questions below.

## Who conducts the Census?

The Census Bureau is part of the federal government and conducts the census every ten years. The Village is helping support the census by getting information out to the public and helping to build awareness about the importance of the census. The Village does not conduct the Census.

## Why does the government conduct the Census?

The census is required by the United States Constitution. Population data collected by the Census is used to determine Congressional seats and to allocate federal funding for things like road construction, healthcare and education.

## Why does the Census matter to Flossmoor?

The Village of Flossmoor receives almost \$1 million every year from the State of Illinois. The funding is directly tied to our total population and is used to fund Village services like police, fire and public works. If residents in Flossmoor go uncounted, money that is owed to our community will go to other towns instead.

## How do I respond?

Between March 12 and March 20, you'll receive an invitation from the Census Bureau asking you to go online or call a toll-free number to respond to the Census. If you don't respond online or by phone, the Census will send you two reminder letters before mailing you a paper questionnaire. If you don't respond by April 20, a Census worker will visit your home to follow up in person.

## I don't have a computer or internet at home.

### How do I respond?

It's easy to respond by phone instead. Your Census invitation will include a toll-free number that you can call. If you don't have a computer at home, but you still want to respond online, you can visit the Flossmoor Public Library to use a computer there for free.

## What questions will the Census ask?

You can see the exact questionnaire at [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov). The list below is simplified, but can give you an idea of the questions:

- How many people are living or staying in your home on April 1, 2020?
- Is the home rented or owned?
- What is your telephone number?
- Name, sex, age and date of birth of each person living in the home
- Whether the people living or staying in the homes are of Hispanic, Spanish or Latino origins
- The race of each person in the home
- How people in the home are related to the person responding to the Census for the household

## Why does the Census need to know so much personal information?

The goal of the Census is to count each person once and ONLY once. Answers like names and date of birth help ensure that people are not counted twice. Other questions are used for statistical information, like homeownership data, or to ensure federal agencies are complying with other laws like the Voting Rights Act.

## Does the Census share my answers with other government agencies?

The answers that you provide to the Census are kept confidential by the Census Bureau and cannot be used against you by the government. The answers are used to create statistical data, but not to identify you or your family members personally. You can see how Census data is presented by visiting [Census.gov](https://Census.gov) and clicking on Access Local Data. Enter Flossmoor in the search box to see statistical information about our village.

## Does the Village of Flossmoor see my responses?

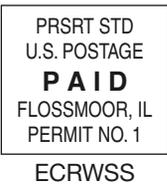
No, the Village does not receive your responses. The Census Bureau does not share information on individual households with the Village, the Police Department or any other Village agency. The Village only sees statistical data that is publicly available to everyone on the Census website.



## Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road  
Flossmoor, IL 60422

[flossmoor.org](http://flossmoor.org)



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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



**Mayor Paul Braun**

I hope that you and your family are well and anticipating the spring season in Flossmoor. As spring approaches, I know that we are all looking forward to warmer weather and seeing our community in bloom. Flossmoor's Public Works staff continue to work hard to keep Flossmoor looking great by keeping parkway trees trimmed, planting flowers in the downtown area, and

cleaning up litter that accumulates over the winter months. Last year was the first year that the Village provided free brush pickup service to residents and this program was a tremendous success. Based upon last year's experience with the program, Public Works staff has made a few changes to the program that will make brush pickup service even more convenient for residents.

We also welcome your participation in the Village spring cleanup on April 2 for our Community Cleanup Day. Organize a cleanup day with your neighbors or join one that's already planned. You can find opportunities to volunteer for the Village cleanup event at [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org).

Springtime also brings budget season for the Village. As the Village Board of Trustees, Village staff and I consider

Flossmoor's budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins on May 1, I can assure you that our community's infrastructure is of major importance. Village staff is actively pursuing grants for storm water infrastructure improvements that will help to mitigate flood risk in areas that were hard hit this past September. Village staff and I continue to work with our state legislators to ensure they remember Flossmoor when allocating funding that we are expecting to be generated from last year's State of Illinois capital bill.

One way that you can help to make sure that Flossmoor receives the funds owed to the Village from the State and Federal governments is by completing your 2020 Census questionnaire this month. The population counts that result from the Census are used to allocate funding to communities across the country. If Flossmoor residents go uncounted in the Census, money that is owed to the Village will go to other communities. Census results are also used to determine districts for the U.S. House of Representatives. Illinois is projected to lose at least one seat in Congress following this year's Census and we all know how important it is to be represented in Washington D.C. Flossmoor cannot afford to lose another seat, so please help spread the word to your neighbors and let them know that responding to the Census is critical to Flossmoor's future.

I hope that you and your family have a wonderful spring and summer and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming Flossmoor community events this season.

Cordially,

Paul S. Braun  
Mayor