

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Summer 2019
Volume 29 / Number 1



PHOTO BY COLIN THOMAS / THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHIC.

SUMMER FUN IN FLOSSMOOR

Adia, Naima and Safiya Douglas enjoy a bike ride with their new friend Douwe Groen through Flossmoor Park on a sunny afternoon.

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village officials

Paul Braun, Mayor
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Brian Driscoll, Trustee
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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

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.



#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

June 21

Celebrate PRIDE in Flossmoor — Join us for a concert celebrating pride month and supporting our LGBTQ+ community. 6 to 10 p.m. in Downtown Flossmoor at Park and Central Drive.

June 23

A Seat at the Table — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner to Irwin Park in Homewood for a community dinner. Special to-go dinner packages available at Flossmoor Station, Dunning's Market, The Bistro on Sterling and Wiley's Grill. Visit www.hfparks.com for more information.

July 1 – September 7

Flags of Flossmoor — Flossmoor Public Art Fundraiser Printed flags designed by local artists will be on display all summer in Flossmoor. Bid on your favorite flag. Proceeds support the Flossmoor sculpture program. www.flossmoor.org.

July 4

4th of July Children's Parade — The only parade where there are more participants than spectators! Decorate your bikes and wagons in red, white and blue! Lineup is at 9:30 a.m. at Parker Jr. High School. The Parade starts at 10 a.m.

July 28

Chicago White Sox Game — HF Family Day! Game Time: 1:05 p.m. White Sox vs. Minnesota Twins. Specially priced tickets are available for all Homewood-Flossmoor residents. H-F Summer Choir will sing national anthem! For tickets visit www.whitesox.com/hf.

August 6

National Night Out — 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Learn more about our Police Department at this fun night out at Flossmoor Village Hall.

August 10

Back to School Celebration & Movie in the Park Get ready for school to start! All are invited to celebrate with fun activities and giveaways. Stay for the movie at dusk.





Children participate in summer day camp at Irons Oaks.

SUMMER STAYCATION IN FLOSSMOOR

After another year filled with late night homework, sports practices, musical performances and other school obligations, a wave of relief can be felt across the community as it embraces the sweet sounds of summer break.

For those who don't have a vacation set in their summer plans, Flossmoor is abound with opportunities for the whole family.

Whether it's enjoying activities through the H-F Park District, participating in programming at Homewood Science Center, or signing up for the annual summer reading club at Flossmoor Library, there are a number of ways to keep the little ones occupied this summer.

Flossmoor Library

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, the Flossmoor Library's summer reading program embraces the space theme with a "Universe of Stories." As with every year, the summer reading program offers a bevy of weekly activities including story time for the youngsters and various teen activities for the older kids.

This year's summer reading program also includes an incentive program to keep kids engaged all summer long. The "Universe of Stories" bingo log, the name of the program, awards kids for completing reading challenges, such as reading for 30 minutes, reading along with family members, making a recipe from a cook book, etc. with bingo spots for a chance to win a grand prize at the end of the summer. While the bingo challenge is only available to kids in 12th grade and below, Library Director Jamie Paicely still

encourages the adults in the community to get involved with summer reading and various adult programming at the library.

In addition to the summer reading program, there are also a number of adult activities to enjoy throughout the summer. These include weekly art classes with Pat Moore; the Coffee and Conversation book club; knitting and computer classes; and even classic movie nights.

Visit www.flossmoorlibrary.org for a calendar of events or stop by the Flossmoor Library at 1000 Sterling Avenue to see what's going on.

H-F Park District

The award-winning Homewood-Flossmoor Park District never disappoints when it comes to offering great programming and park services to the H-F community, and this summer is no exception. Among some of the highlight events happening this summer include:

A Seat at the Table — Sunday, June 23 at Irwin Park from 6 to 9 p.m. The community is invited to come together for a community dinner at Irwin Park this summer. Bring a picnic and sit with neighbors and friends, new and old, and enjoy music and dancing in the park.

Don't feel like cooking? Dinner packages are available from partnering restaurants: Wiley's Grill, Dunning's Market, Cilantro, Flossmoor Station, Redbird Cafe, The Cottage on Dixie and The Bistro on Sterling.

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flossmoor faces & places

Fond Farewell to Chief Mike Pulec

Following a 30-year career with the Flossmoor Police Department, the Village of Flossmoor wants to wish Chief Mike Pulec a happy retirement.

Pulec first joined the Flossmoor Police Department in 1983 as a telecommunicator and auxiliary police officer, eventually returning in 1992 as a full-time officer with the Flossmoor Police Department. But, it was Pulec's desire to become a police officer in the first place, and the incredible coincidences that happened in the future, that makes his career in Flossmoor extra special.

As he tells it, Pulec's dream to pursue a career in law enforcement started in 6th grade, when his class had a special visit from then Flossmoor Police Sergeant Larry Finnerup. Finnerup's wife Pat, was Pulec's teacher and thought it would be a fun experience for her students to have a visit from a real police officer. For Pulec, it was much more.

"He made a big impact on me," said Pulec. "That visit is really what made me what to become a police officer."

Fast forward to 1992, and Finnerup would become one of Pulec's immediate supervisors, a mentor and friend. In an even stranger twist of fate, when Pulec was promoted to Sergeant in 2001, the same year Finnerup retired, it was Finnerup's weathered badge that was given to Pulec.

Just as that story holds a special place in Pulec's heart, so too does the Village of Flossmoor. After spending nearly his entire career with the Village, Pulec acknowledged how strange it felt to put his uniform on for the very last time on



Village Trustees and Staff bid farewell to Mike Pulec.

May 17, 2019. And, even though he is moving on to pursue other passions, he will look back on his time serving as Chief of the Flossmoor Police Department with the highest regard.

"Thinking back to that little kid in 6th grade to then become the Chief of Police in Flossmoor, that's the highest honor I could ever imagine," said Pulec. "The support we've (Flossmoor Police Department) gotten from Flossmoor and the residents has been so positive, it really makes everything worth it. It's been a great career and now it's time to pass the baton."

New Board Members Join District 161 ... Welcome David Linnear and Christina Vlietstra

The Flossmoor School District 161 Board of Education has two new members serving the students of District 161. David Linnear and Christina Vlietstra earned positions on the BOE in an uncontested election last April. The two join the board with a range of different skills and experiences, but with a shared common goal — to be part of nurturing and shaping District 161 students.

Vlietstra, a mother of two from Chicago Heights, is the Board of Education's first representative from Serena Hills in several years, a

motivating factor for Vlietstra's desire to run for a seat.

"It was incredibly important to me that the Board featured voices from every school in our district," said Vlietstra. "The previous Board members have done a good job recognizing all of the schools, but I think it will benefit the entire district to have a new perspective on the Board."

Similarly, Linnear, a father of four with two still in the district, brings another perspective to the Board. With one student at Heather Hill and one student at Flossmoor Hills, he is

uniquely positioned to speak to the student experiences at both buildings.

In addition to Vlietstra and Linnear, incumbent Board President Michelle Hoereth will also serve the school board for a four-year term, her fourth consecutive term with the District 161 School Board.

"This school district is incredibly important to me, not only as a parent, but as a member of this community," said Hoereth. "It is our job to ensure that our students have the best education system possible to become the leaders of the next generation."

Flossmoor Welcomes New, Returning Village Trustees

Despite his political background and political science degree, Gyata Kimmons never intended on pursuing public office when he and his family moved to Flossmoor five years ago. But, after starting his own company, having a little more free time, and a persuasive conversation from close friend and former Village Trustee James Wilder, Kimmons now finds himself sitting at the dais with his fellow Trustees.

When Wilder announced that he would not be running for reelection in the April 2019 race, he encouraged Kimmons to try his hands at local politics. After working in Intergovernmental Affairs for former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Kimmons said at the time serving in public office was the furthest thing from his mind.

“I worked all across the city and got to know elected officials very well; locally, from the county, even federally,” said Kimmons. “I saw the things they had to go through, the deals they had to negotiate, and it wasn’t something I wanted to pursue.”

However, being far enough removed from his work with Mayor Daley’s office, Kimmons decided he’d consider a run for public office. That all started with the conversation with Wilder and what Kimmons affectionately calls his “kitchen cabinet.”

“I had an opportunity to meet with existing Trustees and some Village Staff and realized this is a group that I would really enjoy working with,” said Kimmons. “So, I did some community canvassing and created a kitchen cabinet of people that would help me generate some excitement around a campaign. The only pause I had was whether I had the ability to bring enough people along with me for the ride.”

Kimmons, Perry Hoag and James Mitros were all elected in the April 2019 elections. While this is Kimmons’ first term, Hoag and Mitros were both elected to their sixth terms on the Board. Collectively, Hoag and Mitros have sat on the Village Board of Trustees for nearly 50 years, both winning their first elections in 1995.

Leveraging their experiences as a partner with Chicago law firm Cameli & Hoag, P.C. and as a business owner and property investor, respectively, Hoag and Mitros have played integral parts in maintaining a high standard of services, negotiating economic development, and preserving the Village’s financial stability through a number of challenging years.

Kimmons appreciates that experience and knowledge, as he looks to bring his own set of skills to the Village Board.

“One of the great things I learned about working in the public sector is we are not always subject matter experts,” said Kimmons. “When we do it right, we bring in the right people and the right pieces to accomplish our goals. I’m ready to take advantage of my skills and bring new ideas and new energy to the board.”

In addition to Kimmons joining the board, and Hoag and Mitros being reelected, a Trustee vacancy will also be filled by Mayor and Board appointment in mid to late June.

The Village Board of Trustees meets the first and third Monday of every month. To view upcoming meeting agendas or to contact a Trustee, visit www.flossmoor.org.



Gyata Kimmons



Perry Hoag



Jim Mitros

NEWS TO USE!

Flossmoor Hosts PRIDE Concert

June is Pride month and to celebrate, the Village of Flossmoor is hosting its first ever PRIDE concert and fundraiser to benefit Lighthouse LGBTQ, from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 21 in Downtown Flossmoor. Pride Month was established to commemorate the Stonewall riots in June, 1969, which many believe was the single most significant event leading to the modern fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

The Flossmoor PRIDE event was established to continue the Village's advocacy and support of the LGBTQ+ community in Flossmoor and to expand Pride Month celebrations all across the South Suburbs. Many great events currently exist in the area, and Village Staff and elected officials are thrilled to be adding one more to our own community.

In addition to an all-ages concert featuring CATFIGHT, Flossmoor PRIDE will also feature local performers, food and drinks from Flossmoor's favorite restaurants, informational materials from surrounding LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, free accessories from the Human Rights Campaign, and more.

Also, to celebrate the entire month of Pride, the Village will also be dedicating June Pride Month in Flossmoor and will feature rainbow flags and painted rainbow crosswalks throughout our Downtown. Come celebrate PRIDE in Flossmoor and support the LGBTQ+ community in our Village!



Talented Oliv Blu

Oliv Blu may not have advanced in the NBC hit show *The Voice*, but she sure did make her hometown of Flossmoor proud. The 21-year-old Homewood-Flossmoor High School Graduate participated in season 16 of *The Voice*, making it all the way to the top 13 live shows round before being eliminated. Despite not winning the popular singing contest, Oliv Blu's career is just beginning. In addition to being a solo artist, who writes her own music, Oliv Blu also performs across Chicagoland with the "artistic collective" Freesole which features multiple artists performing a collection of hip-hop, R&B and Neo-Soul music. Follow Oliv Blu on Facebook and Instagram to see where she's performing next!

Festive Fourth with Flossmoor!

It is nearly time once again for one of Flossmoor's finest annual traditions — the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department Fourth of July Parade. Come out with your bikes, wagons, scooters, or skates ... whatever wheels you wish and yourself decorated in all things red, white and blue to help us celebrate Independence Day with a parade down Flossmoor Road.

Parade line up starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Parker Junior High School parking lot and will start promptly at 10 a.m. After the parade concludes in Downtown Flossmoor, stick around to enjoy free refreshments and a demonstration by the Flossmoor Fire Department. Thanks go out to the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department Foundation for always hosting and supporting such a great event!

Summer Fire Safety

The weather is finally nice enough to get out and enjoy summer — backyard barbecues, family camping trips, Fourth of July parties, bonfire toasted marshmallows, and more. But, before you fire up that grill or throw a log into the fire pit, make sure to review these important safety tips from the Flossmoor Fire Department, FEMA and the U.S. Fire Administration.

- Keep a bucket of water or hose nearby. If an ember floats out of your fire pit, or a log falls down from your bonfire stack and sets nearby foliage or other flammable materials aflame, you can put the fire out right away. Having water available is a great first response tool to keep a fire under control.
- While fireworks are not permitted in the Village of Flossmoor, even something as low risk as sparklers can cause injury or damage if not used properly and under strict adult supervision. To prevent burns or other injuries, sparkler users should have on closed-toed shoes, be standing, not sitting, and should be at least five to six feet away from other sparkler users.
- Don't let barbecue grease build up. Whether you're using a charcoal or a gas grill, it's important to keep it clean from grease and leftover food items to prevent accidental fires.
- And don't forget – when you're done with the fun, put out the flames! Unsupervised fires are one of the largest causes of wildfires in the United States. While Flossmoor may not be in immediate danger for catastrophic wildfires, it doesn't take much for a breeze to pick up and carry coals and embers from that campfire, dropping them where they can ignite dry grass, branches, trees or deck planks. The same goes for the backyard grill – close the propane valve, the unit's lid, and vents on a charcoal grill when done.

Community volunteers are behind the marketing and promotional efforts for the inaugural Hidden Gem Half Marathon on September 7 in Flossmoor.

Hidden Gem Half-Marathon

Have you heard there's a new half-marathon coming to town? On the morning of September 7, runners will lace up their shoes to run 13.1 miles through Flossmoor. The race is sponsored by a local not-for-profit organization called Flossmoor's Future, founded by Flossmoor residents. The goal of Flossmoor's Future is to promote all the good things Flossmoor has to offer and bring more visitors to Flossmoor. Here's what you need to know to be ready for the race!

How do I sign up for the race?

Registration is open now at www.hiddengemhalf.com.



I don't want to run but I want to be involved.

The success of the race is dependent on volunteer support. Click on the volunteer tab at www.hiddengemhalf.com to read more about the volunteer tasks. Additionally, race organizers are encouraging residents to become part of the fun by cheering on runners as they pass through neighborhoods. People are encouraged to create signs, play music, and cheer loudly so that visiting runners know what it's like to live in Flossmoor.

How will this impact access to my home and neighborhood?

The race will wind through nearly every neighborhood of Flossmoor, which will necessitate road closures throughout the Village, including the major streets of Flossmoor Road, Governors Highway, Kedzie and Western Avenue. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. on Flossmoor Road near Village Hall and travels west on Flossmoor Road and then through the Baythorne, Flossmoor Hills and Highlands, and Ballantrae before turning back east. The major thoroughfares (Flossmoor Road, Kedzie and Governors) will be closed to ensure

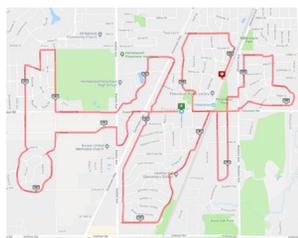
the safety of the runners. Residents are asked to exercise extreme caution if they need to enter or exit their driveways during this time. Portions of the route, including the major streets, will be reopened as soon as all runners pass through. Kedzie, Governors and Flossmoor Road (west of Governors) are expected to be back open by 10 a.m.

How will the race impact businesses on Flossmoor Road and Downtown Flossmoor?

There will be limited access to Downtown Flossmoor throughout the race. Flossmoor Road and Sterling Avenue will be closed to traffic beginning at 7 a.m. on September 7. Portions of the race route may be reopened to traffic after runners have safely passed through.

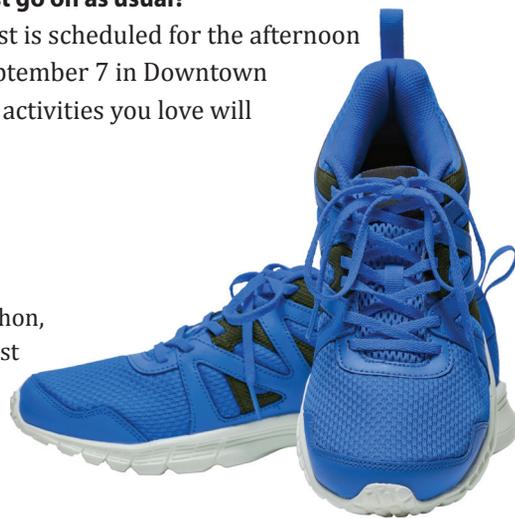
Will Flossmoor Fest go on as usual?

Yes! Flossmoor Fest is scheduled for the afternoon and evening of September 7 in Downtown Flossmoor. All the activities you love will be back for 2019.



Want to see a map of the Hidden Gem's course?

Perfectly timed for anyone training for the Chicago Marathon, Flossmoor's inaugural Hidden Gem Half takes runners past our parks, schools, sculptures, and golf courses. This CARA and USTA certified 13.1 mile race beautifully showcases Flossmoor's quaint, historic, tree-lined neighborhoods. Go to www.hiddengemhalf.com to view.



school spotlight

New Principals at Western Avenue and Serena Hills

Several new faces will join Flossmoor School District 161 at the start of the 2019-2020 school year, as new administrators are introduced across the district.

Among the administrators hired at the end of the 2018-2019 school year were new principals for Western Avenue



Gina Isabelli



Elizabeth Reich



Eric Melnyczenko

Elementary School and Serena Hills Elementary School and two assistant principals at Parker Junior High School, in addition to a few changes at the District Office.

Gina Isabelli will join District 161 as Principal of Western Avenue School after serving four years as the Principal of Circle Center Grade School in Yorkville, Illinois. Elizabeth Reich will take the position of Principal at Serena Hills following an eight-year career as Principal of Oak Ridge School in North Palos District 117.

"Filling the principal vacancies at Western Avenue and Serena Hills with high caliber administrators was the highest priority for the District 161 school board coming to the end of the school year," said Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent. "After several rounds of interviews with a number of highly qualified candidates, Gina Isabelli and Beth Reich clearly rose to the top of the group."

Isabelli started her teaching career as a third and then sixth grade teacher in the Troy School District 30C. While teaching, Isabelli also earned her Masters of Arts in Education with a focus on School Improvement Leadership from Olivet Nazarene University. She also held the position of Assistant Principal at three elementary schools in the Yorkville CUSD 115.

Similarly, Reich started her career as an elementary school teacher, working her way into educational leadership after earning her Masters of Arts in Education Administration from Governors State University. From there, she went on to take the role of Curriculum Teacher Leader at North

Palos District 117, eventually moving into the Principal position at two different schools in the same district.

In addition to Isabelli and Reich, two more administrators have been added to the District 161 faculty, but they may be a little more familiar to District 161 families. Tara Peacock and

Michelle Wisniewski will fill the assistant principal vacancies at Parker Junior High to serve alongside incoming Principal Amabel Crawford. Peacock most recently taught eighth-grade social sciences at Parker and Wisniewski served as a case manager in District 161.

Peacock also spent two years at Flossmoor Hills Elementary teaching fifth grade from 2000 to 2002.

"Not only are they excellent candidates to fill these vacant positions, but their knowledge of the District and, specifically, of Parker Junior High are incredible assets to have as we embark on our first year together," said Crawford.

As the former Director of Learning and Instruction in District 161, Crawford is also plenty familiar with the District as she takes on her first year as Principal of Parker Junior High, a role she is thrilled to occupy. In a letter to parents, Crawford touched on her experience in the District, highlighting some of the programs that have been the most impactful, and expressed her excitement about having a direct impact to the culture and educational standards at Parker.

The final new administrative hire in District 161 doesn't come at the school level but at the District Office. Dr. Eric Melnyczenko will fill the role of Director of Administrative Services, a new position Dr. Smith said couldn't have come at a better time.

"This is a position that we've desperately needed during the last few school years and Eric fits the role perfectly," said Smith. "His experience in human resources, organizational development and educational leadership will be valuable tools to add to our administrative staff."

Melnyczenko's professional experiences include serving as Assistant Principal of Mokena Junior High School, Principal of Mokena Intermediate School, and Assistant Principal of Oak Glen Elementary School. Melnyczenko also carries endorsements as a Professional Human Capital Leader in Education (pHCLE) and a Professional in Human Resources (PHR).

business spotlight

Lots to Smile about for the Center of Dental Excellence

The wait is nearly over for patients at The Center for Dental Excellence as the 20-year Flossmoor business gets set to open the doors to its brand-new office expansion.

Not only does the expansion double the CDE's physical footprint at 19615 Governors Highway, but it also provides the necessary space to fulfil a longtime dream of Dr. Cary Goldberg and Dr. Charles Greenebaum's – to create a private practice that houses all dental specialties under one roof.

"Imagine multiple doctors discussing your case face-to-face. No referrals or phone tag or figuring out how to send X-rays to multiple offices. Scheduling, insurance and financial arrangements all coordinated by CDE members who care about you?" Dr. Greenebaum wrote in an update to CDE patients.

Dr. Greenbaum went on to add a personal story about the impact he feels from his patients' gratitude and said that it's because he feels so connected to his patients and their families, that the decision to continue to build the business bigger and better came easily.

By adding the additional 5,300-square-feet of space the CDE is able to expand its dental services to include periodontal, endodontic and even oral surgery practices. In total, the new CDE expansion will feature 20 treatment suites, two surgical suites and a recovery room, in addition to larger office space and meeting rooms.

The expanded space will also feature a more advanced X-ray procedure called the Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) that is less invasive and produces clearer, high-

resolution images to allow for more accurate diagnosis.

According to Lori Tozer, marketing director for the CDE, these additions to the practice make the CDE one of only a handful of oral care providers in the area to feature such a wide range of services under one roof. As a family-owned,



family-operated business, being able to provide a high level of service and comfort to patients across all specialties is a priority for Dr. Greenebaum and Dr. Goldberg.

But, the new facility isn't the only new thing coming to CDE. Once the expanded office and exam center opens in July, all operations will move in and the CDE will take on the complete renovation of the existing office.

It's all part of continuing to push the business to the next level and making sure the patients that have come to know and trust the care they receive at CDE, get the best the industry has to offer, said Tozer.

For more information on The Center for Dental Excellence, or to learn more about Dr. Greenbaum and Dr. Goldberg, visit www.flossmoordental.com.

Jersey Mike's Rolls into Flossmoor

After its long-awaited arrival, Jersey Mike's has finally opened its doors in Flossmoor. Occupying the once vacant space at 3760 Vollmer Road, Jersey Mike's represents the significant growth Flossmoor has seen in the southwest commercial district. Growth that Pascal Michel, Director of Marketing, Catering and Customer Support at Jersey Mike's, is thrilled to be representing in Flossmoor.

"We are always looking for a location that has a lot of traffic, so having

an anchor like Meijer gives us great exposure," said Michel. "The location is fantastic."

Since opening in early May, Michel said Jersey Mike's has seen a steady influx of new and returning customers. Many are pleased to see their favorite sub shop established in the community, while others are happy to have yet another eating option added to the southwest side.

"We had some really strong weeks coming out of the opening, so we're definitely feeling a positive response

from the community," said Michel.

"Our moto is "A Sub Above" for a number of reasons. It's the quality of our food, but it's even more so about our guests. It's really important for us to have relationships with our guests and be a part of this community."

That sense of community extends beyond the store, with the Jersey Mike's annual Month of Giving in which all nationwide stores donate a portion of sales to a local charitable partner.

For more information about Jersey Mike's visit www.jerseymikes.com.

commission corner

Gardening for Pollinators

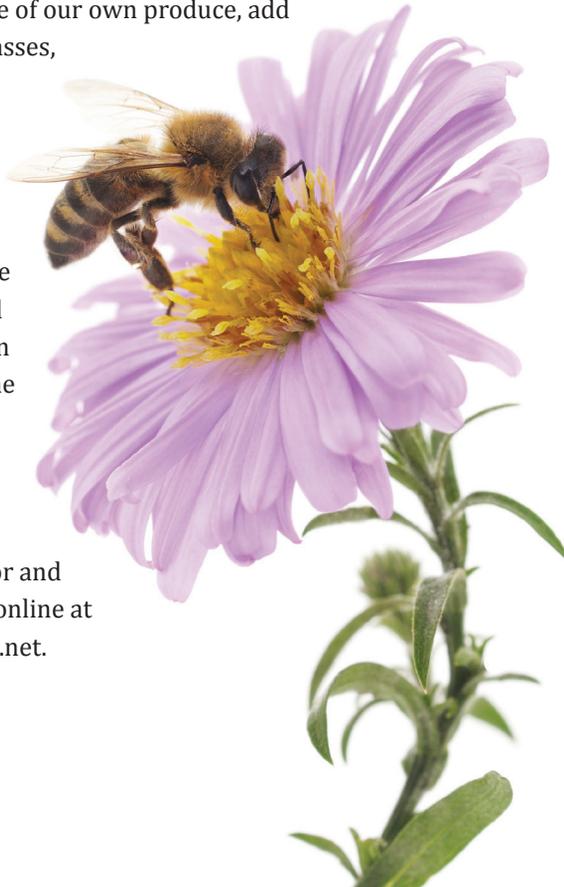
Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, dragonflies and other pollinators bring life and beauty to our landscapes. Much of our food supply is dependent on pollinators. Honey bees and other pollinators are in trouble throughout the world. It's one of the biggest environmental issues we face. Yet, there is much home gardeners can do to support pollinators.

When planning landscapes to benefit pollinators:

- Incorporate a variety of native plants. Native plants and pollinators have developed symbiotic relationships as they co-evolved. Many natives, including perennials, shrubs, and trees, are host plants for pollinators. Oak trees, milkweed species, and spicebush are a few examples of high-value host plants we can grow in our landscapes.
- Aim for bloom from early spring through late fall to provide for pollinating insects throughout the growing season. Having a long succession of colorful blooms in our landscapes is also beautiful!
- Avoid using pesticides. Pesticides kill pollinators, and the birds and other wildlife that eat them.
- Purchase plants not treated with neonicotinoid pesticides. This class of pesticides is absorbed into plant tissues and can't be washed off. Some garden centers now label treated plants. If in doubt, ask. Growing plants from seeds is another way to avoid pesticides.

Whether we grow some of our own produce, add native trees, shrubs, grasses, or forbs, or even some non-native perennial and annual flowers to our landscapes, by following a few basic principles, the things we do to beautify our small corners of the world can make a difference for the birds and the bees.

To learn more about the importance of native plants for the environment find author and botanist Doug Tallamy online at www.bringnaturehome.net.



Flags of Flossmoor Public Art Fundraiser

The Flossmoor Public Art Commission is hosting an outdoor public art auction in downtown Flossmoor all summer long! View custom art printed on flags displayed downtown from July 1 to September 7, then bid online and bring your favorite home during Flossmoor Fest.

This year's public art auction theme is "Flags of Flossmoor: Welcoming. Beautiful. Connected." and is meant to highlight all of the reasons why residents choose to live in Flossmoor. The spirit of Flossmoor should come alive through these designs no matter what the artist drew his or her inspiration from.

Whether it is the natural spaces, unique architecture, family-friendly activities and events, the flag designs will express elements of the exhibition theme and be suitable for all audiences. These designs will then be printed on 2-foot by 3-foot flags that will adorn Downtown Flossmoor.

The flags are original designs by local artists of all ages. Some of the submitted designs span a variety of mediums, including paintings, 2-D drawings, digital animation, photography, and more! Keep an eye on your favorite flags this summer and don't forget to make your bid online at www.flossmoor.org.

Cheer the Gem

Have you heard? On September 7th, Flossmoor is hosting the inaugural Hidden Gem Half Marathon! Runners from the broader Chicagoland area and across the country will discover first-hand all that makes Flossmoor unique, and the tremendous sense of pride we have in our community! Neighborhood Spirit Teams are being formed throughout Flossmoor's boroughs to cheer runners along the 13.1-mile course and demonstrate our community pride. Community meetings are taking place, and brainstorming themes for each borough has begun! All are encouraged to get involved; it is a great opportunity to spend time with our friends and neighbors and celebrate our inclusive community. Please contact Atukwe Newell, Community Relations Leader, at atukwenewell@gmail.com to join in the fun! See page 7 for details.

New Flossmoor residents came together to learn about the resources, events and programs they can enjoy in Flossmoor.



New Resident Spring Connect Held in April

Cold winds and rain didn't dampen the spirits of Flossmoor residents who attended the first New Resident Spring Connect at the Flossmoor Library on April 27th. Cheerful green and white balloons decorated the welcome table where Village staff and volunteers greeted residents. Village and Library staff, Community Relations Commissioners (CRC), as well as community and high school volunteers worked together to provide a fun and informative event for families who moved to Flossmoor in 2018 and 2019.

Flossmoor welcomes new residents every year, but this event, organized by the CRC, was the first to be held at the Flossmoor Library. Residents mingled with Mayor Paul Braun, Village Trustees and staff, spoke with representative from HF High School, met new neighbors, and enjoyed tours of the library conducted by volunteers and library staff. Children participated in activities on the second floor in the youth department. Each guest also received a reusable library bag filled with brochures and other takeaways.

"Thanks for a great event" was the consensus as the event ended. There were several suggestions that the CRC will definitely incorporate for next year. Many wanted "more time to chat with other residents". Information was so popular that inviting additional community partners will be high on the list. The CRC thanks the library for hosting this fun family time, and we look forward to making this an annual opportunity for new Flossmoor residents to learn about the Village and the gem we have in Flossmoor Library.

Playground Play Dates (Free)

Get outside and meet new friends and neighbors at the H-F Park District's playground play dates. The REC-ing Crew recreation staff will bring games and activities and all are invited. Pick up an H-F Parks Map at the Irwin Center and Goldberg Center offices to help navigate and find all the great parks around Homewood and Flossmoor.

- June 20 | Homewood Estates Park | 10 - 11 am
- July 11 | Goldberg Park | 10 - 11 am
- August 1 | Heritage Park | 10 - 11 am

Irons Oaks

Did you know that Irons Oaks is more than just a school field trip destination? The park is open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset and trails are well-marked. On Thursday nights through September, Irons Oaks hosts public Treetop Adventures on the high ropes course. Participants must be in 7th grade or higher. Visit www.ironsoaks.com or its Facebook page to find out more!

Block Party

More than just brats, beers and buds, block parties are the get-togethers that keep neighbors connected and create bonds not easily broken. It just takes a handful of organizers to make the party happen! You provide us with a date and time; we'll drop off barricades to block the streets. Most block parties are traditional afternoon barbecues, but residents have also used block parties for St. Patrick's Day parades, Oktoberfest parties and even block-wide holiday lighting. See www.flossmoor.org for more information.

Community Events

A few other community events to add to your calendar this summer include a Movie in the Park on July 19 at Irwin Park in Homewood and again during the annual Back to School Celebration on August 10 in Flossmoor Park.

The Flossmoor Public Art Commission will also be sponsoring an outdoor art auction in Downtown Flossmoor all summer long, starting in June and ending during Flossmoor Fest on September 7. Bidding will take place online and at Flossmoor Fest, so check out all the final designs at www.flossmoor.org.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendars for fun fall activities too!

- Flossmoor Fest & Hidden Gem Half Marathon September 7
- Flossmoor Brew Fest October 12
- Volunteer Fire Department's Halloween Party October 31

Village of Flossmoor

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Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoor.org

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I hope that this finds you and your family well and looking forward to summer in Flossmoor! Spring and summer in the Village of Flossmoor is a time of new beginnings. New vegetation coming to life, new families moving in, new activities to enjoy, and for Village Staff, spring and summer means the beginning of a new fiscal year.

Each fiscal year the Village Board and Staff address the community's needs in the annual budget and this year's budget includes \$400,000 in street and sidewalk replacement projects, as well funding for the Village's new brush pickup service at no additional cost to residents. The brush pickup service began in April and also will include free leaf collection service this autumn. We expect that this will not only reduce the burden on residents to bag leaves and having to purchase disposal stickers, the program will also help prevent leaves from clogging storm drains in the Village.

This is also a time of new beginnings for our Village Board. On May 6th, newly elected Village Trustee Gyata Kimmons took his oath of office, as did re-elected trustees James Mitros and Perry Hoag. Of course, we were sad to see Trustees James Wilder and Phil Minga leave the Village Board. Phil served for more than 20 years and James for 10 years. Their experience and expertise provided solid and consistent service to the community. We will miss their wisdom and good counsel. Flossmoor is very fortunate to have a Village Board that is made up of a diverse set of voices who have the best interests of our residents in mind.

At the time of this writing, I am reviewing 13 applications from residents to fill Phil's vacancy on the Village Board and we anticipate

being able to have this position filled shortly. I am encouraged by the number of residents who took the time to apply. It truly reflects the terrific involvement of our residents.

The Village is also in a period of new beginnings for our Police Department. We welcomed in May two new patrol officers, James VanWitzenburg and Theresa Daniel, as well as our new Community Service Officer, Avery Johnson. We look forward to their service for the residents.

We also in May received notice of our Police Chief Mike Pulec's retirement. Chief Pulec has worked diligently for the Village for the past 30 years. His street-smart, common-sense approach to policing and his good nature are just a few of the qualities that have made Chief Pulec an excellent leader for the Flossmoor Police Department and a terrific advocate for the safety of the community. Chief Pulec will be greatly missed and we wish him good health and a long, happy retirement. The Village Board and I are in the process of conducting a recruitment search process for Chief Pulec's replacement in order to select the best qualified person to maintain the safety and security of the community.

In closing, the Village Board and I reiterate the Village's commitment to diversity and inclusion. I speak for the entire Village Board and our staff when I say that racist acts are not tolerated in Flossmoor. As we stand with our neighbors who have been hurt by bigotry and ignorance we continue to work with our other government partners to continue being an inclusive and united community.

I hope to see you and your family out and about in our wonderful community this summer.

— Paul S. Braun, Mayor



Mayor Paul Braun