

# FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Winter 2020  
Volume 30 / Number 3



PHOTO BY AMY KENT.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS, FLOSSMOOR!

**Interim Flossmoor Fire Chief Greg Berk, his son, Flossmoor Fire Captain Matthew Berk, Matthew's wife Stephanie Berk, and daughters Quinn and Mackenzie Berk pay a visit to the Village of Flossmoor's Letters for Santa mailbox, located outside of Flossmoor Village Hall.**

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# village officials

**Paul Braun, Mayor**  
pbraun@flossmoor.org

**George Lofton, Trustee**  
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**Brian Driscoll, Trustee**  
bdriscoll@flossmoor.org

**Joni Bradley-Scott, Trustee**  
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**Perry Hoag, Trustee**  
phoag@flossmoor.org

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

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

**Ananda Billings, Clerk**  
abilings@flossmoor.org

**Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager**  
bwachtel@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

## Now through December 18

*Letters for Santa — Deliver to the "North Pole" bound mailbox located outside of the main entrance of Village Hall.*

## December 1 to December 23

*Thanks in Giving Brick Sale — Buy a personalized brick for \$100 before the price increases to \$125 on February 14, 2021*

## December 21

*Board of Trustees Meeting — 7:30 p.m. / Held Virtually (see pg. 7)*

## December 24 — Christmas Eve

*Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Eve*

## December 25 — Christmas Day

*Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Day*

## December 31 — New Year's Eve

*Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Eve*

## January 1, 2021 — New Year's Day

*Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day*

## Made in Flossmoor: Zachary Slaughter

When boarded up windows dotted the Chicago area earlier this year, artists took the opportunity to share images of protest and support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Zachary Slaughter, a freshman at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, and his father Christopher saw the artwork as a visual piece of what the protests represented and decided they wanted to encapsulate a piece of the history.

*Boarded Up Chicago: Storefront Images Days After the George Floyd Riots* is comprised of hundreds of photographs shot predominantly by Zachary that capture the street art demanding justice for Floyd and statements against police brutality. As he toured the city alongside his father, during a historic, global pandemic, the scenes were somber, yet charged. The artwork said more than words ever could, and that's what made the experience so moving for Zachary.

"The artwork is the words of the people and they're putting it into a voice that everyone can see," said Zachary. "The artists are saying 'we need to speak our mind about how the world is and act upon it' and that's what my pictures represent."

Copies of *Boarded Up Chicago* can currently be purchased online at Amazon. Christopher and Zachary's experience can also be seen on Instagram and Twitter @boardedupchi.

# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS IN FLOSSMOOR

The holiday season is likely to be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, so the Village of Flossmoor is introducing a special program to bring a little extra holiday joy to the season.

Letters for Santa, sponsored by the Village of Flossmoor, invites area families to deliver letters and Christmas lists to Santa through the Village's special mailbox that is "North Pole bound." Letters will be accepted until December 18.

"Village staff has worked hard this year to think outside of the box as it relates to our annual events," said Amy Kent, Village Communications Manager. "Flossmoor is such a tight knit community, and it was important to staff, and to the Mayor and Board of Trustees, that we continued to make meaningful connections with residents despite being separated physically."

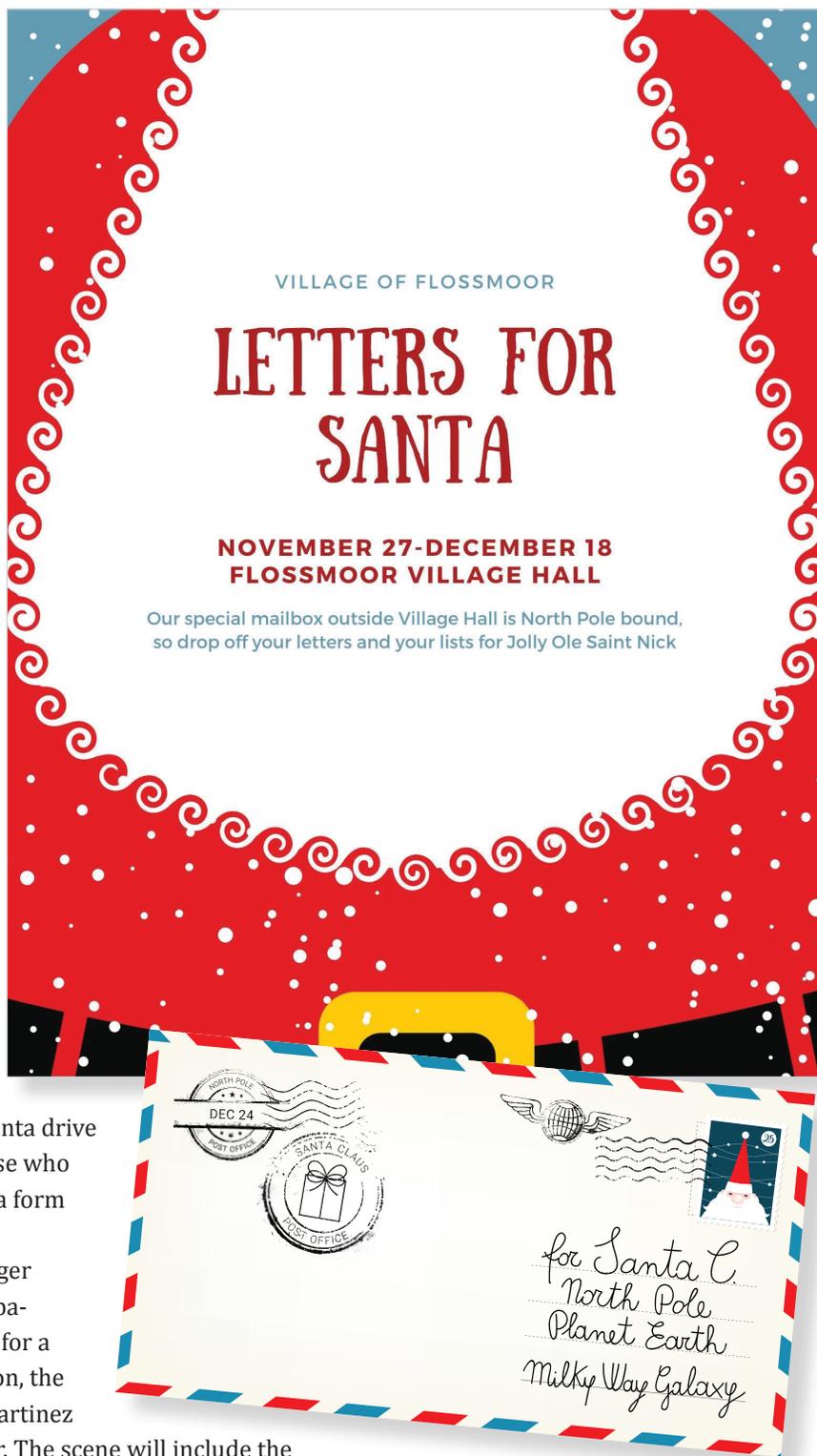
Letters for Santa isn't a new concept for the Homewood-Flossmoor area, as the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District has accepted letters to Santa for more than 35 years. But, for the first time, the Village of Flossmoor will also be accepting hand-delivered letters. The special mailbox will be located outside of the main entrance of Village Hall and will be collected by the Flossmoor Fire Department and Village staff. Once the letters are collected, the Village will send a special message to the kids across the community.

Similarly, the HF Park District's Letters to Santa drive will include a response letter from Santa for those who participate via the park district's Letters to Santa form that can be downloaded at [www.hfparks.org](http://www.hfparks.org).

While Letters for Santa is intended for younger children, there is no age requirement for participation. For families or individuals who are looking for a different way to commemorate the holiday season, the Village has enlisted the artistic talents of Nico Martinez to paint a holiday scene of Downtown Flossmoor. The scene will include the Downtown decorated with holiday lights, Downtown businesses, the Flossmoor Public Library and residents strolling the sidewalks.

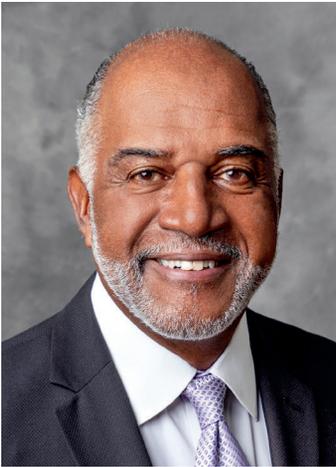
Prints will be available for purchase for \$10 at the following Flossmoor businesses: Dunning's Gourmet Market and Deli, Gypsy Fix, Glow Salon, Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl and Kluger Furs.

The purchase will directly benefit Flossmoor businesses. Support your local businesses and grab a scene of Flossmoor during the holiday season to send to family, friends or to keep for yourself.



# flossmoor faces & places

## George Lofton Joins Village Board of Trustees



**George Lofton**

George Lofton joined the Village Board of Trustees this November following a Mayoral nomination and a unanimous vote of approval from the Board of Trustees. Lofton's nomination came following the resignation of former Trustee Gyata Kimmons.

"George brings a wealth of skills, education and experience to the Village Board of Trustees including

corporate administrative and organizational leadership, government and public relations, and economic development," said Mayor Paul Braun. "George and his family are long term village residents and George's passion and commitment to Flossmoor will be a welcome addition and benefit both to the Village Board and our community."

Though this is Lofton's first time holding public office for a municipality, he did serve on the Board of Trustees at Roosevelt University for 10 years and for five years on the Board of Trustees for First National Bank in Chicago Heights.

As a professional, Lofton enjoyed a long career with Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) eventually retiring as the

Vice President of Economic Development after 37 years. Lofton's career also included more than a decade managing marketing and sales for ComEd in Harvey.

"My positions with ComEd really took me all around northern Illinois, but when I worked in Harvey in the 1980s, that is what first interested me in living in the South Suburbs," said Lofton. "I've lived in Flossmoor for the last 15 years now, and I've been impressed and excited by the way our town is run. The Board of Trustees is a strong group so I know I will learn a lot and quickly. I want to make sure that I'm adding to efforts that are already in motion to make sure I'm in tune with the needs of our constituents."

While Lofton's main goal is to maintain Flossmoor's image as an ideal "bedroom" community to live and raise a family, he also hopes to leverage his background in economic development to enhance the business community across Flossmoor.

"Flossmoor doesn't have a lot of land, but there are great opportunities to fill the spaces we do have," said Lofton. "There's opportunity to grow our business community, especially our small business community, and I think that would create a lot of strength in our environment."

Per statute, Lofton will serve in Kimmons' seat until the April, 2021 consolidated election. This trustee seat is up for election in April; a candidate running for this seat will fill the two-year unexpired term until 2023.

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## Hot Housing Market in Flossmoor

Whether related to the COVID-19 shutdowns, the Village's new marketing efforts, or just coincidental, homes in Flossmoor are selling at a record rate.

As of October, there were 54 homes on the market in Flossmoor, 33 of which were under contract. While the market report from Gregory Byron of Coldwell Banker indicated an average 120 days on the market for 2020, Flossmoor Realtor John Flynn said the appetite of homebuyers from the City of Chicago is strong this year.

"I'd say that it is in response to COVID and I'll be interested to see how it plays out long term," said Flynn. "We had about four months of pent up

sellers and pent up buyers – March through June – and then we saw all of this pent-up consumption in August, September and October, rather than late spring and early summer."

Flynn believes the stay-at-home order issued by Governor Pritzker in March, led to the surge in interest in Flossmoor homes, in large part, because people felt cooped up in their city apartments and condos.

The green space Flossmoor homes offer appealed to Chicago transplants and led to a rapid increase in what Flynn calls "quick sales."

"In the past, houses with pools were always harder to sell," said Flynn.

"But, people are now desiring green space so they can create a little oasis, a little getaway, in their own back yards."

As the demand continues to increase, that can often mean an increase in confidence across the market. Flynn sees this as an opportunity for sellers to be more confident in their listings and the value of their homes.

"We got so used to being beaten up because our values were so low, I think a lot of sellers have been quite reserved," said Flynn. "I don't know that we'll ever see the highs that we saw in the past, but we'll get there."

## Grow Tropical Fruit in Your Backyard

Rarely do the terms tropical and Flossmoor come together in a sentence, but that's exactly what Flossmoor residents can experience with the resilient pawpaw tree.

A native Illinois tree, the pawpaw is a unique species that produces an elongated, oval shaped fruit that resembles tropical fruit like a papaya or mango. While it resembles a tropical fruit in appearance, Flossmoor pawpaw enthusiast Tom Houlihan said the flavor and texture is unlike any other fruit he's tasted.

"The closest fruit to it is a banana in texture but it doesn't really taste like a banana. It has a custard like texture," said Houlihan. "They have a unique flavor that's very sweet. I quite like them."

While growing fruit is an added benefit to planting pawpaw trees, planting native trees and plants provides significant benefit to area wildlife, while also diversifying the Village's tree population and beautifying the community.

According to Dave Becker, Village arborist and forestry maintenance technician, having a diverse population of trees and native plants is a key component to the ecological health and beauty of Flossmoor.

"When I choose trees for the Village tree programs, I do so to promote diversity to prevent another issue like we had with the Emerald Ash Borer," said Becker. "When that came through a few years ago it killed thousands of trees, not only in our area, but all around the region. We removed large areas of tree cover around town and it was very costly for the Village."

In addition to improving the diversity of trees in Flossmoor, Becker also makes his tree decisions based on native species that are lacking in the community. When the Village three years ago started prioritizing native with the parkway tree program, which takes place every spring and fall, there were little to no hickory trees in the Village, an important tree for native and migrating birds.

By prioritizing the hickory trees, the Village can reintroduce the native species and benefit from its ecological and economic advantages. Not to mention, because it is a native tree, there is less risk of it carrying a specific disease that is present in another region, state or country.

Since the start of the parkway tree program, there have been hundreds of trees planted along the Village's parkways, ranging from hickory to oak to beech.

Flossmoor resident and Flossmoor Green Commissioner Tristan Shaw, who owns Possibility Place, a native plant nursery, works actively to highlight the importance of supporting native in Flossmoor. But, Shaw said he often sees companies spending more time focusing on the aesthetic of a specific plant, known typically as a cultivar, versus the environmental benefit they provide.

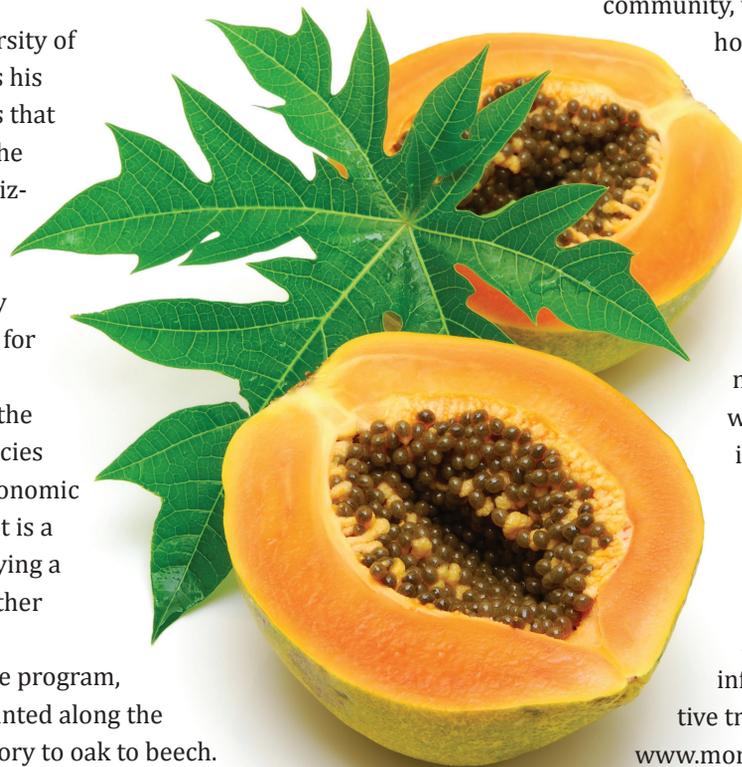
"Cultivars and non-native plants are not good hosts for our local critters and the local biology because they have not evolved with the wildlife," said Shaw. "When migratory birds are heading north or south, these native plants are critical during the journey and it's becoming more segmented so birds and insects have to travel further and further to get the food they need."

Cultivars also produce a higher number of sterile flowers, meaning they mimic the appearance of a native plant but don't actually offer the nutritional value the native plant does. For instance, the smooth hydrangea is a popular food source for the monarch butterfly and is a native species to the area. But, the annabelle hydrangea, which is often considered a more attractive flower, mimics the smooth hydrangea in the eyes of the butterfly but has sterile flowers and no nutritional value.

"If a monarch butterfly is traveling south to Mexico and it lands in your yard and you have a sterile flower, it won't get any nutrients from it and it will have to spend that extra time and energy finding its food source," said Shaw. "As a community, we need to figure out

how to provide these natural food sources that serve the genetic lifecycle of our native wildlife. These native plants have been proven for 10,000 years. We're not going to come up with anything better in the industry."

The Village's free parkway tree program will once again start in spring 2021. For more information about native trees and plants, visit [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org).



# NEWS TO USE!

## Holiday Shopping Tips

### Parking Lots

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

### In Store Shopping

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

### At Home/Delivery

- Bring packages in through a closed garage when/if possible.
- Break down boxes (i.e. TVs, computers, anything of value) and place in cans or bags for trash pickup.
- If you have a Christmas tree near a window with gifts underneath, close blinds, shades, etc. when no one is home.
- Lock doors, windows, garage doors, car doors, during day and night, whether home or not.
- Schedule deliveries when someone is home to receive them.
- Request signature on delivery.
- Have mail held at post office if you will be out of town.
- Request to be added to the Flossmoor Police Department house watch list if traveling.
- Keep in mind, thieves follow package delivery trucks.
- Use Ring doorbell or other surveillance options.

## Winter Tree Pruning Cycle

Every winter trees in a different section of the Village are pruned. The Village of Flossmoor's annual tree pruning cycle will continue this winter in neighborhoods on Braeburn Avenue and Brassie Avenue. The specified section of Flossmoor is located between the Metra Railroad Tracks and Flossmoor Golf Club and extends from Flossmoor Road south to Vollmer Road.

Tree pruning helps promote tree health by removing dead, damaged and diseased branches. Insects and diseases are attracted to these dead and damaged branches, so removal is essential and it helps reduce the spread of the disease further into the tree.

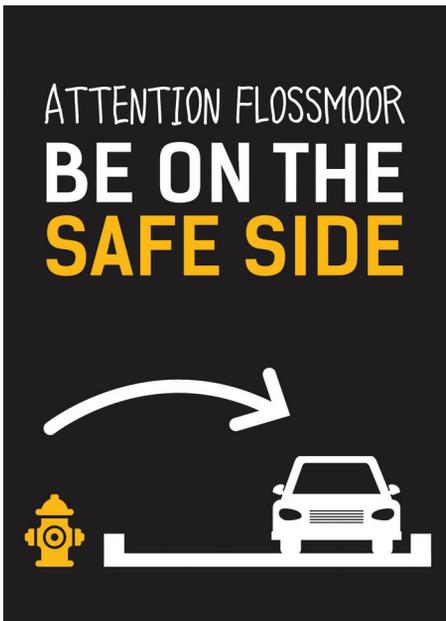
Another important aspect of pruning is the removal of low, overhanging branches for clearance. Streets require enough height for large trucks, such as snowplows and other Public Works vehicles to travel through. Removing low branches can also help reduce diseases as they tend to thrive in the dense lower 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 and increases the benefits trees provide to the community.

Pruning will only take place on established parkway trees, unless otherwise identified. It is the Village's goal to leave the lower branches on small and younger trees as long as possible to promote root establishment and increase trunk growth.

Branches will be removed as soon as they cause a clearance issue. Please contact Flossmoor Public Works with questions or concerns at (708) 957-4100.





## Remember to Park on the Safe Side

Remember this winter about restricted parking across the Village of Flossmoor. Parking is not permitted on the hydrant side of the street and parking is restricted on all Village streets after two inches of snowfall.

Additionally, parking on Village streets is prohibited between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. Overnight parking requests may be made to the Flossmoor Police Department by phone at (708) 957-4500 or by submitting a request online at [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org).

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 exist 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.

## Shop Local this Holiday Season!

Support small business this holiday season by "thinking big and shopping small." The Flossmoor Business Association is hosting a giveaway all holiday season. Visit the participating shops and receive a stamp in your passport, which can be picked up in person at participating businesses or downloaded at [www.flossmoorbusinessassociation.info](http://www.flossmoorbusinessassociation.info). Five passport stamps = three tickets / 10 passport stamps = eight tickets / Full passport = 15 tickets!

### • FIRST PRIZE: A Progressive Dinner Under the Stars

Dine under the stars in your private dome! Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery, The Bistro on Sterling and Dunning's Market are teaming up to curate the perfect evening. Enjoy a 5-star meal from Flossmoor's finest restaurants.

### • SECOND PRIZE: Day of Beauty Basket

Includes hair care and services from participating Flossmoor salons and gift shops.

### • THIRD PLACE: Best of Flossmoor Gift Basket

Featuring Kluger Furs and Gypsy Fix, to name a few! Validate your passport at Dunning's Market, Doyle Designed Salon, Kluger Furs or Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl and receive your tickets to enter the drawing.

In addition to the grand prize packages, participants can also enjoy extra deals from participating businesses. Some of these "appreciation coupons" include a free gift with every purchase from Kluger Furs, a free \$10 gift card when you buy two \$50 gift cards from Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl, 20% off all orders (dine in or carry out) from Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery, \$5 off any full service with a purchase of a \$50 gift card from Yesterday's Gentlemen Barbershoppe, and many more.

Return as many passports as you'd like with a minimum of five stamps to be entered into the prize drawing. The last day to enter the drawing is December 31, 2020, but some appreciation coupons run through to 2021.

## Village Board Meetings Reminder

Flossmoor Village Board of Trustee meetings will continue to be held virtually on the first and third Monday of each month. Residents are invited to monitor the meeting using the dial-in number listed on the agendas found at [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org). Public participation will be permitted only during the Citizen Comment portion of the agenda. Members of the public may also comment on items on the agenda by email to [info@flossmoor.org](mailto:info@flossmoor.org). Comments received by 6 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read during the meeting.





# business spotlight

## More Than Just Hair Care

Rita Natasha's love of hair styling started at a young age. And, what makes her new business Thairapy (1046 Sterling Avenue) unique also started for Natasha at a young age.

"It's all about a holistic approach to self-care," said Natasha. "I want people to understand how they can be living their healthiest lifestyles and care for their whole self."

That is the environment Natasha wanted to create as a new salon owner when she took over the business officially in October. As a stylist with the former business, Express Yourself Beauty & Wellness Salon, Natasha established herself with the clientele and community, and now as owner, is thrilled with the relationships she's building with her fellow business owners.

"I wanted to have my own space for awhile and I had looked in Homewood because I wanted to be in a downtown area," said Natasha. "Last year I learned the business [Express Yourself Beauty & Wellness Salon] was for sale and I really liked the community and the storefront. Now that I'm here, I couldn't imagine being anywhere else. I love the community and I love my business neighbors."

In addition to Natasha, who specializes in styling and holistic hair care, Thairapy features one additional stylist, a

nail technician and an esthetician. Hair services include cuts, colors, braiding, herbal rinses and scalp detoxing, wig care and

protective styling, and more. Nail services include manicures and pedicures, as well as foot detoxing. Thairapy's licensed esthetician Kesha Quiana specializes in lash extensions, facials, waxing and other skin care services.

As a new business owner, Natasha is aware of the challenges she is facing with the COVID-19 pandemic, but she is optimistic that her location in downtown Flossmoor and the relationships she's built among the community will power her through the difficult year.

"The downtown atmosphere really sets the tone for the salon. We're getting walk ins daily and I know that might slow down, but the energy downtown is really motivating," said Natasha.

Thairapy is open Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Visit [www.thairapy4u.com](http://www.thairapy4u.com) or call (773) 983-4248.



## A Community Collective: Gypsy and Company

A new artist cooperative has launched in Downtown Flossmoor and provides the space to showcase artists that otherwise might not have the chance to do so. When Gypsy Fix opened up shop in the spring, it did so with the intent to introduce the idea of shared business spaces. One issue that stood in the way of that goal was the physical space. When Gypsy Fix owner Morgan Sullins and her creative partner Jesi Gadowski approached the building landlord about a cooperative business space in the former Coldwell Banker business on the corner of Sterling Avenue and Flossmoor Road, he was all for it.

"This is something we were really talking about for about two months and then the opportunity for the space came up and we were ready to

go," said Gadowski. "We're rolling it out in phases because the space is so big. It will be a cooperative of about 20 different rooms and 12 different artists and the goal is to establish it as a long-term incubator for people to get some exposure."

While the space is still currently being developed, some of the artists that will occupy the individual offices include a hypnotist, massage practitioner, multimedia artists, jewelry makers, tarot card readers, ceramics artists, an herbalist and more.

Because Gypsy Fix often works with local artists with features on social media and featured space in the storefront, it wasn't difficult for Gadowski to establish relationships with local artists. A group of artists she's especially excited to feature is a

group of young artists from Governors State University.

"We've worked with a lot of these artists before so we're calling it a pop-up for now but the goal is to keep them here long-term," said Gadowski. "Most of these artists really want to create storefronts and shops so this is a good way to get them the exposure with a little less of the risk."

Gypsy and Company is officially open, with 17 individual office spaces which allow for appropriate social distancing. While the goal is to house each vendor or artist long-term, there are still additional opportunities for local artists to get connected by following Gypsy and Company on Instagram at [@gypsyandcompany](https://www.instagram.com/gypsyandcompany) or by contacting Gadowski at (708) 968-7153.

# department updates

## Snow Removal Responsibilities

Winter has arrived, which means snow and ice is in the forecast. While the Flossmoor Department of Public Works prides itself on the hard work of the snow removal crews, it's important that residents recognize that the Village's Public Works Department isn't the only stakeholder in snow removal activities. The Illinois Department of Transportation and Cook County Department of Transportation are also responsible for the snow removal on several streets in the Village.

On the list for IDOT is Crawford Avenue, Governors Highway, Western Avenue and Dixie Highway. The CCDOT is responsible for Kedzie Avenue, Vollmer Road, Holbrook Road and the portion of Flossmoor Road from Crawford Avenue to Governors Highway.



It is the Village's policy that snow removal doesn't begin until a minimum of two inches of snow has accumulated, but preventative efforts often start leading up to a snow event. This preventative effort includes the Village's

use of a proprietary liquid formula known as Therma-

Point, produced by the Chicago Salt Company.

ThermaPoint is a formula comprised of organic materials like beet juice and molasses combined with rock salt and small amounts of calcium chloride. It is 90% less corrosive than rock salt and salt brines meaning it is gentler on cars, roadways and the environment. The Public Works Department is constantly implementing new efforts to make the community safe and beautiful, and residents can help too by considering these suggestions when clearing snow from their own 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 from fire hydrants to permit easy access in the event of an emergency.

Please also remember to never try to get the attention of a snow plow driver. The blades and weather conditions often make it very difficult for drivers to see, therefore creating hazards for residents.

## The Importance of Cleaning Your Furnace

According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires, deaths and injuries, with more than half of those coming during the months of December, January and February.

Space heaters are the most common type of equipment to be involved in home heating fires, but the Flossmoor Fire Department wants to remind residents that one way to protect against home heating fires is to properly maintain and clean furnaces and fireplaces.

Second to space heaters, the failed maintenance and proper cleaning of furnaces and fireplace chimneys is another common cause of home heating fires.

Keep these tips in mind when getting your home warm and cozy this winter.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from any heating equipment.
- Turn off and unplug space heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to keep sparks from flying through the room.
- Ashes should cool before placing them in a metal container a safe distance from the home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by qualified professionals.

Learn more about heating safety on the NFPA website and [www.NFPA.org/safety](http://www.NFPA.org/safety).

# commission corner

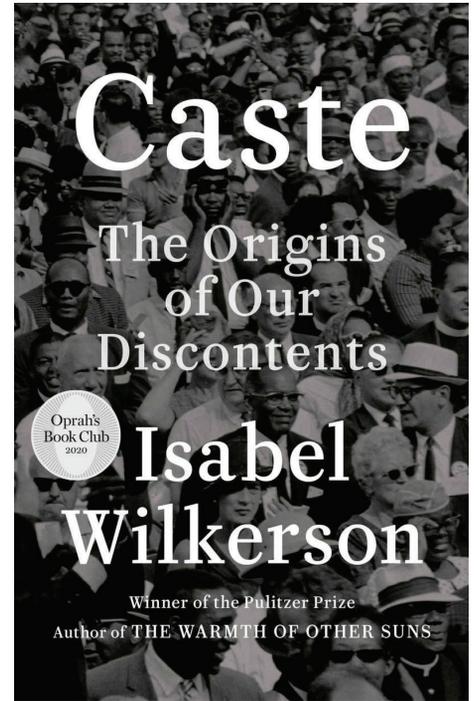
## New One Book, One Flossmoor Virtual Book Club Beginning in February

The Flossmoor Community Relations Commission is once again sponsoring One Book, One Flossmoor and has selected *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson.

*Caste* is a nonfiction book, published in 2020, that describes racism in the United States as an aspect of a caste system, which is defined as a form of social stratification characterized by endogamy, hereditary transmission of a style of life which often includes an occupation, ritual status in a hierarchy, and customary social interaction and exclusion based on cultural notions of purity and pollution.

The New York Times Best Seller and Oprah's Book Club suggestion, *Caste* has been called an "Instant American Classic" and was among one of the most anticipated books of 2020 not only because of the subject matter, but because of Wilkerson's ability to marry historic and societal elements of the American experience.

Because *Caste* is a new book, wait lists may be long at the Flossmoor Public Library, but there are still plenty of opportunities to get your hands on a copy. If you have copy that you would like to donate, please bring it to the Little Free Library outside of Village Hall. Copies of *Caste* can also be purchased through Bookies in Homewood or on Amazon. The virtual book discussion will take place in February. More details will be shared in early 2021.



## Buy a Brick and Support Flossmoor's Art

Support the Flossmoor Public Art Commission's sculpture collection by purchasing an engraved brick to be placed in Downtown Flossmoor. Buy a personalized brick for \$100 for a friend or family member to say thank you, in memory of, or to say "I love you," this holiday season. Proceeds from these donations are used by the Flossmoor Public Art Commission to maintain current sculptures and to place new public art across Flossmoor.

The price of the bricks will increase to \$125 on Valentine's Day. Be sure to purchase a brick before the change on February 14, 2021.

Visit [www.artflossmoor.com](http://www.artflossmoor.com) to download the brick donation form. Mail with your check or use the Village Hall drop box to submit your order.



## Record-setting Recyclepalooza

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the Flossmoor Green Commission once again hosted a successful Recyclepalooza event, setting several collection records since the event started in 2016.

Among the record-setting numbers, more than 8,000 pounds of electronics were collected in addition to 210 television sets and nearly 6,000 pounds of metal. The Flossmoor Green Commission also collected 367 ink/laser jet printers, 38 bicycles, 311 sets of eyeglasses, and 2,000 LEGO pieces.

For the first time, participants were invited to recycle old trophies and it was a hit addition. More than 500 trophies were collected by Awards Plus in Steger to be melted down and repurposed.

Also collected during the 2020 Recyclepalooza included 58 American flags, 95 pounds of plastic bags and containers, 18 pounds of aluminum can tabs and 300 pounds of towels and blankets.

A special thanks goes out to all volunteers, participants and our partners for another great year. You are making a difference!

## Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road  
Flossmoor, IL 60422

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

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



**Mayor Paul Braun**

### **Hello My Friends,**

I hope that this message finds you, your family and your friends healthy, well and enjoying the winter holiday season. I know that we all are looking anxiously ahead to the future and I want to assure each and every one of you that the Village is doing everything necessary to make sure that essential Village services, such as police and fire protection, safe drinking water, and public works

services are continuing to be provided without interruption.

We are currently facing unprecedented challenges as a community and as a nation. It is very important that we continue to be good neighbors, good friends and good community members. In the end, that is what keeps Flossmoor welcoming, beautiful and connected.

The Village Board of Trustees and I extend a sincere thank you to all of our residents who voted to approve the November 3, 2020, general obligation bond referendum which will finance street, sidewalk and stormwater improvements. Your vote not only reflected your vision for the future of Flossmoor, but also served as a vote of confidence that the Village will be good stewards of the bond

funds and that the Village will successfully complete these major infrastructure projects.

The Village's first priority is to address the flooding issues at the Flossmoor Road Viaduct and areas upstream. The Flossmoor Public Works Department has worked diligently to identify and apply for grant funding to help offset some of the costs needed from the general obligation bond funds. Thus far, the Department has been able to secure a portion of grant funding to address flooding on Berry Lane and Maryland Avenue in Heather Hill, problem areas for the larger Flossmoor Road viaduct project.

Construction is expected to begin on the Berry Lane drainage improvement project this coming spring and the additional flooding and street improvement projects are currently in the active planning and engineering stages. As the Flossmoor Department of Public Works continues its work, including exploring other grant opportunities, we will continue to update the community on the progress of our streets, sidewalks and stormwater infrastructure improvements.

Now more than ever, we must come together as a community and continue to support one another. Please also don't forget to support our terrific Flossmoor businesses, especially during this holiday season. The Village Board of Trustees, Village staff and I will do whatever is necessary to protect Flossmoor as we get through the COVID-19 pandemic. I know in my heart that you are willing to do the same.

Happy holidays and best wishes to all!

Cordially,

Mayor Paul Braun