

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Fall 2021
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PHOTO BY THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHIC.

BARRELS OF HOPE AUCTION SUPPORTS PUBLIC ART

Residents on Bruce Avenue teamed up to create their art barrel which will be auctioned off to raise money for the Flossmoor Public Art Commission and the Flossmoor sculpture collection.

A Tradition Continues
Flossmoor Fest Returns
September 11
Page 7

On Your Marks
Flossmoor Welcomes Hidden Gem Runners
Page 8

Mayor's Message
Take our Strategic Planning Survey
Page 12

village officials

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Brian Driscoll, Trustee
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Gina LoGalbo, Village Clerk
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Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager
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village numbers

Village Hall: (708) 798-2300

Fire: (708) 798-3885

Non-Emergency Police: (708) 957-4500

Non-Emergency TDD: (708) 647-0179

Public Works: (708) 957-4100

Building Department: (708) 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 September 11

Barrels of Hope Public Art Auction — View our art barrels on display now through Flossmoor Fest. Bid online and bring your favorite home. Other auction items include public bench plaques, brick dedications and framed art. Visit www.artflossmoor.com to view all items and start bidding today!

September 11

Hidden Gem Half Marathon — Race Start: 7:30 a.m.

Welcome back the Hidden Gem Half Marathon and celebrate as runners traverse the 13.1-mile course through Flossmoor's neighborhoods. Come out and cheer the Gem! Details on Page 8.

September 11

Flossmoor Fest 2021 — 1 to 10 p.m. | Downtown Flossmoor
Flossmoor Fest has returned! Enjoy a full day of activities for all featuring food, music, games, rides and more! A great day to play with friends and neighbors. Details on Page 7.

October 2

Recyclepalooza — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Parker Junior High School
Gather your recyclables and stop by! Visit www.flossmoor.org for a full list of accepted items.

October 31

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours — 3 to 7 p.m.

October 31

Children's Halloween Party — 7 to 8:30 p.m. | Parker Jr. High
Absolutely no tricks...just treats! All young residents (pre-school through 3rd grade) are invited to attend. Stop in for sweet treats, games and fun with friends. Hosted by the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department Corporation.

November 6

Pumpkin Smash — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Coyote Run Golf Course
Green your Halloween by bringing your old pumpkins to be composted. Don't trash it ... smash it! Sponsored by the Homewood Flossmoor Area Green Committee.

November 30

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

UNITY AND COMMUNITY THROUGH ART

Color is erupting along the sidewalks in Downtown Flossmoor and Flossmoor Commons, and that is thanks to the artists who participated in the Flossmoor Public Art Commission's Barrels of Hope community art fundraiser. Barrels of Hope features 23 bourbon barrels, painted by local artists to be auctioned off in support of the Flossmoor sculpture collection. Each barrel is a representation of the artist's vision of love, inclusion, hope and community.

"The theme of the Barrels of Hope is that 'this is Flossmoor'; this is who we are, this is what we stand for," said Nancy Burrows, Flossmoor Public Art Commission Chair. "I'm really impressed by the differences in the artwork, but I'm also amazed and happy with the fact that they really do share similar messages. Those messages are very positive, upbeat and hopeful."

Flossmoor's Barrels of Hope project engaged local artists to paint the barrels with eye-popping imagery in order to attract bidders to the public auction. The barrels will be on display in Flossmoor until Flossmoor Fest on September 11 with the public auction closing at 8 p.m. at Flossmoor Fest. Each artist or group of artists were given the freedom to select their barrel themes, as long as they stuck to the common theme of hope and community. The result, like Flossmoor's sculpture collection, parks and green spaces, are eye-catching pieces of art that are aimed at attracting people to the community and local businesses.

"We really wanted our barrel to represent unity and community. Unfortunately, not the easiest thing to articulate through visual art," said Jennifer Sykes, lead artist for the Neighbors on Bruce barrel. "Myself and one of our other creative neighbors worked together to come up with the hand print ideas and everybody was super excited about it. It's a big project, so collaborating on this was a great idea that brought us all together. If we didn't do the hand prints, I probably would have sat in my backyard by myself and painted it."

Mayor Michelle Nelson advocated for the Barrels of Hope project before her April election, helping the Flossmoor Art Commission coordinate, source materials and recruit artists. Now that the artwork is live for the community to see, the pride she feels as a supporter and now as Mayor, is something special.

"I am extremely proud of the display and thankful to the artists who gave their time for this project. It represents their love for this Village and their love of public art," said Nelson. "Time will tell what this project will do, but our goals are to raise money to help fund public art, create



PHOTO BY MARCELLUS MARSH.

Local artist Nico Martinez stands proudly with his barrel, one of 20-plus pieces of public art that are being auctioned off to support the Flossmoor sculpture collection.

interest and inspire people, to make them feel hopeful and optimistic about the future, and to create interest in our small businesses throughout Flossmoor."

Flossmoor's Barrels of Hope project is sponsored and supported by the Village of Flossmoor, including the Flossmoor Public Art Commission and the Flossmoor Public Works Department, as well as the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery and Homewood Auto Body. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Flossmoor Public Art Commission, which places and maintains outdoor sculpture through the community.

Visit www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/barrels-of-hope-24073 to view all 23 barrels and to place a bid. Visit www.artflossmoor.com to learn more about the Barrels of Hope fundraiser, the Flossmoor Public Art Commission and the Flossmoor sculpture collection.

flossmoor faces & place

Gina LoGalbo Named Village Clerk



Gina LoGalbo

In her first appointment, Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson this summer selected Gina A. LoGalbo to fill the vacant Village Clerk position. The appointment was then confirmed by the Village Board.

“Ms. LoGalbo has unique administrative experience as well as an impressive history of service not only to

the Village of Flossmoor but also to our country as a Marine veteran,” said Nelson. “With her administrative experience she demonstrated that she is very detail oriented, reliable and dependable. I know that we’ll be able to count on her.”

LoGalbo is a licensed and practicing attorney who works for the Cook County Bureau of Human Resources. As part of her role as a hearing officer, LoGalbo’s weekly tasks include scheduling, facilitating and conducting grievance hearings, including note taking and directing the presentations of the parties involved, skills that she believes fit

perfectly with the role of Clerk.

Prior to pursuing college and earning her law degree from The John Marshall Law School, LoGalbo served in the United States Marine Corps as an Administrative Clerk, graduating first in the Administrative Clerk training class.

Outside of her professional career, LoGalbo is an active Flossmoor community member often volunteering for local events, including the Hidden Gem Half Marathon, Toys for Tots collections, the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Parent Advisory Board and the HF Soccer Club, among others. In her letter of interest LoGalbo also expressed her ongoing commitment to “buy local,” a value she learned from her father, a former chamber of commerce president.

“I am very pleased and excited to be a part of the Village in a more formal, official capacity. I care about Flossmoor and I try to look out for the Village’s best interests. Since I moved to Flossmoor five years ago, I have tried to be as active as possible, and once I’m a part of something, I’m loyal to the cause,” said LoGalbo.

LoGalbo will serve a two-year term, until the next local election. For more information about the Village Board of Trustees and Village Clerk visit www.flossmoor.org.

Thank You Jan Gawczynski

This summer, the Village of Flossmoor finance department welcomed Ann Novoa to the position of Assistant Finance Director, filling a vacancy left by Jan Gawczynski who retired following a nearly 30-year career with the Village of Flossmoor. A love of numbers brought Gawczynski to the world of finance, but it’s the people who she will miss the most.

“I’ve spent many years working with a small group of people in the finance department and I will miss all of my co-workers dearly,” said Gawczynski. “Especially, Scott [Bordui, Finance Director]. He has been a great person to work with and has done amazing work in this Department.”

Bordui not only left a lasting impression with Gawczynski, but his

reputation also drew Novoa’s interest to the Village of Flossmoor. As the former Finance Director in the Village of Crestwood, Novoa was familiar with Flossmoor’s longstanding financial health and reputation in financial reporting excellence.

“What drew me to Flossmoor was the opportunity to work under [Finance Director] Scott [Bordui]. Professionally, he has an amazing reputation. I’m excited to be in a position where I can work with someone so respected in the industry,” said Novoa.

Novoa was selected to the position out of a competitive pool of candidates because of her credentials and her combination of talent, energy, demeanor and potential for the position, according to Bordui. In welcoming Novoa, the Village

would also like to send a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Gawczynski, who plans to enjoy retirement with her family, including her husband, two sons, daughter-in-law and two granddaughters, traveling the world, and spending the cold Midwest winters in Arizona.

“I extend a heartfelt thank you to Jan for giving Flossmoor nearly 30 years of service. Jan has held several positions in the finance department and as Assistant Finance Director, served a key role in the day-to-day operations to maintain our strong financial position,” said Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager. “We are thrilled to welcome Ann to the team. She has a big role to fill and the recruitment process revealed she has the skills and knowledge we need.”

business spotlight

Become a Product Freak

Kristi Dinkins wanted more than to just open a beauty supply store in Flossmoor. She wanted to create an oasis for her fellow “product freaks” in which they felt safe to shop, explore and experiment with some of the best beauty products on the market.

“I want people to feel comfortable here, to let their hair down and shop,” said Dinkins. “We try to be as personable as we can and guide our customers to what they need.”

So far, that mentality has paid off for Dinkins, who has seen a positive community response to her business Product Freak Beauty Supply, located at 3321 Vollmer Road, since her July 3

grand opening. Part of that success was the important market research Dinkins did prior to starting her business.

Growing up in Chicago Heights, Dinkins was plenty familiar with the Village of Flossmoor and the larger Homewood-Flossmoor area, but after engaging with the community, speaking to friends and family, and learning what the area needed, she felt confident with the location selection.

“I saw the need in Flossmoor and I’ve always loved the community. Growing up in Chicago Heights, the HF area was really like the ‘it place,’” said Dinkins. “After being here, I couldn’t ask for a better community. They have

been telling me exactly what they want, what they need, and giving me the time I need to scale. I want to grow with them to make sure we can meet their needs.”

Product Freak features a variety of hair care products, hair bundles and makeup, as well as skin care products and fashion accessories. Visit www.productfreakonline.com to shop featured items, learn more about Dinkins’ philosophy or view monthly sales and rewards program. Product Freak is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays.

All Smiles Happy with New Home

For the first time since opening his orthodontics practice in 2008, Dr. Fadi Akhras and All Smiles Orthodontics are now part of Downtown Flossmoor. Akhras and his team have been working on the relocation for nearly three years, searching for the perfect spot to set new roots. Now that the practice is back in full swing in its new home at 2635 Flossmoor Road, Akhras couldn’t be happier.

“It’s a dream come true,” said Akhras. “We’ve had a lot of people stopping by to say hello and comment on the building’s look. Overall, the move has been very positive.”

The building’s new design is one of its biggest changes. Using elements of symmetry to align the building’s façade with the garden landscaping, Akhras and his design team were able to create a warm, welcoming space. With his investment, the new space has become an eye-catching piece of commercial real estate along Flossmoor Road. While Akhras is pleased with the look of the building’s exterior, and the community’s response to it, the interior is the most important element to the practice’s relocation. With more interior space than the old office, formerly at the Flossmoor Executive Center, the new stand-alone building allows Akhras to see more patients, to separate equipment by room, and provides a more convenient flow to the practice.

“We ran out of space at the old office, so we needed a bigger location, but it’s not easy to find a stand-alone building around here that could accommodate us,” said Akhras.



Dr. Fadi Akhras and his administrative assistant Krysta Huette are thrilled to call Downtown Flossmoor home at the new All Smiles Orthodontics location, 2635 Flossmoor Road.

“It took us about three years to get here, but we can see more patients now with the bigger space and we’re feeling a bigger connection with the community.”

All Smiles Orthodontics offers a variety of services including braces, retainers and Invisalign products, and is currently accepting new patients. All Smiles Orthodontics accepts most insurances, offers flexible payment plans and has knowledgeable staff that can help patients get started. Visit www.welovetoseeyoursmile.com to learn more.

NEWS TO USE!

Local Road Safety Plan Survey

We need your help to improve the safety of our roads! Through an interactive map and subsequent survey, your feedback will be used to inform a new plan for Flossmoor's roadways. The Village of Flossmoor is working with the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency (CMAP) to review our public roads and develop a Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP). The plan will contain recommendations for safety-related improvements to roadway infrastructure, as well as recommendations to improve the behavior of all roadway users.

Local residents and stakeholders have the most experience using our local roadways, so your feedback is a necessary component of creating the LRSP. The first part of the community feedback process includes a survey and an interactive map. The survey is open through September 18. The survey asks you to rank and comment on your road safety concerns. The interactive map provides community members with the opportunity to place comments directly on a digital map of Flossmoor. Suggested categories of comments include:

- Intersections that make you feel unsafe
- Near-miss locations, where a slight change in your position or timing could have resulted in a crash or injury
- Streets that you associate with dangerous speeds (or other unsafe behavior)
- Favorite areas of town for walking and bicycling
- Missing sidewalk connections that you want to highlight

This project is funded through a grant from the CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program.

Mask Updates

The CDC now recommends that everyone over two years old in areas of substantial transmission, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks in public indoor settings. Based on current CDC guidelines and Cook County COVID-19 data, Flossmoor is now in the category of "substantial" local transmission, meaning masks are now required for all visitors to Village Hall and other Village facilities. All visitors will be screened for high temperatures and anyone with a fever of greater than 100.4 degrees will be asked to leave and conduct business remotely.

Remember, the best protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant continues to be vaccination, including getting both doses of a two-dose vaccine. Same day vaccination appointments are available at CVS, Walgreens and Meijer.

Attention Friday Homewood Disposal Clients ... A Trash Pick Up Change

When trash pick-up day falls on a holiday, Homewood Disposal typically delays collection until the following day. For example, if your trash collection falls on a Friday the week of a holiday, it will be delayed until Saturday. However, for residents along the Hidden Gem Half Marathon race course, Homewood Disposal and Republic Services have announced that your trash will still be picked up on Friday, September 10, to accommodate necessary road closures for the 13.1-mile race. If you are not on the race route and your trash is normally picked up on Friday, it will be picked up on Saturday due to Labor Day. Flossmoor Public Works will be distributing letters of information in the coming weeks, so please help spread the word to your neighbors.

Let the Leaves Fall

Starting November 1, all residents of single-family homes are invited to place their leaves on the street curb for free pickup. Rake and collect leaves in 33-gallon biodegradable paper bags and set them on the street curb no later than 6 a.m. on scheduled collection days, no stickers needed! For existing Homewood Disposal customers, free leaf pick-up will coincide with regular trash pick-up. For Republic Services customers, the schedule is below. Visit www.flossmoor.org to view the color-coded map that identifies neighborhood pickup schedules. Please keep in mind, there are no limitations on the number of bags that can be picked up, but plastic bags or rigid containers will not be collected. Additionally, grass clippings, tree branches or other landscape will not be accepted.

The color-coded schedule is:

Mondays (November 1, 8, 15, 22) – Orange; Tuesdays (November 2, 9, 16, 23) – Yellow; Wednesdays (November 3, 10, 17, 24) – Green; Thursdays (November 4, 11, 18, 25*) – Blue; and Fridays (November 5, 12, 19, 26*) – Red. *November 25 and 26: Adjusted for Thanksgiving holiday.





FLOSSMOOR FEST: A TRADITION CONTINUES

After a year of anticipation, Flossmoor Fest is back! The Village of Flossmoor is thrilled to invite the community to come together and celebrate Flossmoor Fest on Saturday, September 11. Join fellow residents, local businesses and special visitors for the all-day street party that celebrates life in Flossmoor and the things that unite our community.

This year's Flossmoor Fest will kick off with a soft open at 12 p.m., following the Hidden Gem Half Marathon, with a performance by Evolution. We will officially begin at 1 p.m. with a performance from the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Marching Band, the presentation of the National Anthem, followed by a special welcome message from Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson.

Based on positive community feedback from 2019, all of Flossmoor Fest's activities will again be located exclusively in the downtown area. Amusement rides will include inflatable bounce houses, bungee run and a 90-foot slide. Additional children's activities will include a kiddie train, an exotic animal show, a magician and more! Attendees of all ages can enjoy other Fest activities, including the Jesse White Tumblers, musical performers and local vendors.

Headlining the night of musical acts is Dynamic Sound Band, which will perform from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Additional musical acts, in order of performance, include Cielito Lindo, Not My Dad and Feel Good Party Band.

All-ages entertainment will also include Go DJ, an exotic animal show, a photo booth sponsored by Thomas Photographic, walk around magic performances, and BMX bicycle demonstrations by Matt Wilhelm.

Finally, enjoy food and treats from Village restaurants and get to know more about local businesses, organizations and Village committees at the information booths scattered around Downtown Flossmoor.

In addition to Flossmoor Fest, the Hidden Gem Half Marathon will also return to the streets of Flossmoor on September 11. The race kicks off at 7:30 a.m. near Flossmoor Village Hall. A 9/11 moment of remembrance will begin the opening ceremonies before the start of the 13.1-mile race. The course winds through Flossmoor neighborhoods, passing by schools, activity centers, and finishing off north of the Flossmoor Library. See next page for more information.

Help Flossmoor race organizers and volunteers welcome runners from across the country to our beautiful community by cheering them on along the race course and at Flossmoor Fest. Local musical act Evolution will perform at noon during the transition from the Hidden Gem Half Marathon and Flossmoor Fest. Visit www.flossmoor.org for more information about Flossmoor Fest or visit www.hiddengemhalf.com to learn how to get involved!



IT'S TIME TO SHOW YOUR FLOSSMOOR PRIDE!

Set your calendars for the return of the Hidden Gem Half Marathon on September 11. The 13.1-mile race through Flossmoor will attract hundreds of runners from over a dozen states. In just its second year, the Hidden Gem has established itself as a premier race across Chicagoland. This year's race has attracted a number of elite racers and enthusiastic runners competing for one of the largest half marathon money purses in the Midwest. Runners from Alaska to Washington D.C. will spend the morning running our tree-lined streets as they are energized by the enthusiasm of Flossmoor residents cheering and supporting their efforts throughout the course.

STAY HOME AND CHEER!

The feedback from runners in 2019 was extremely clear: The energy and enthusiasm from our Flossmoor residents throughout the race was amazing. If you're not the running type, cheering with your fellow neighbors is a great way to spend race day. If you have not registered as an official volunteer but instead want to be a spectator on race day, pull up a chair in your front yard, a neighbor's front yard, or another location on the race route, make some signs, bang the noisemakers and shout words of encouragement to the hundreds of visitors who are running our streets. This is the day we make Flossmoor shine in the hearts of our guests and our neighbors.

Important Street Closures

The Hidden Gem Half Marathon means inviting hundreds of runners and spectators to take in the beauty and specialness of our Village, but it also causes some slight inconveniences to our residents on the morning of race day. We want to help you be as prepared as possible for road closures and traffic issues. Though we highly encourage you to stay home or in your neighborhoods on race day to cheer on runners as they pass your homes, we also understand that some of you may have prior commitments that demand you venture out in your car.

If you must leave your home on Saturday morning: *Travel away from Flossmoor Road.*

If you live south of Flossmoor Road, head south to exit your neighborhood. If you live north of Flossmoor Road, head north. Flossmoor Road will be blocked off from Crawford to Western Avenue for most of the morning of September 11. *Park on a street outside the course the night before.* Flossmoor police will not be ticketing those parking on Village streets the Friday evening before the race (9/10). If you know you will be leaving between 7 a.m. and noon on Saturday, consider moving your car outside the course boundaries the night before, so you can walk to it and exit the Village during the race hours. *Double-check your neighborhood times.* Each subdivision will have a hard close for a certain period of time. These are printed and available online at www.hiddengemhalf.com. *Please be courteous.* Hundreds of fellow Flossmoor residents have volunteered as Course Marshals for the race. Help to keep our runners and residents safe. Please be kind and patient with traffic control.

Streets on the route (visit www.hiddengemhalf.com to view a map of the Gem course). Homes directly along the route will be notified in advance.

- Flossmoor Road between Pulaski and Western Avenue
- Governors Highway
- Kedzie Avenue
- 192nd Street between Kedzie and Central Park
- Dunfries Street
- Culloden Street
- Hamlin Avenue
- Beech Street
- Central Park Avenue
- Braemar Road
- Heather Hill Crescent
- Lawrence Crescent
- Sterling Avenue
- Brassie Avenue
- Braeburn Avenue
- Vardon Lane
- Western Avenue
- Evans Road
- Hutchison Road
- Latimer Lane
- Collett Lane
- Gardner Road
- Leavitt Avenue
- Park Drive
- Heather Road
- Dundee Avenue
- Travers Lane
- Wallace Drive
- Argyle Avenue
- Brumley Drive

school spotlight

Chapter Closes on a Storied Career

Homewood-Flossmoor High School is a centerpiece in the Village of Flossmoor. The school serves as an enormous source of pride for staff and students, alumni, and community leaders, and is a key component to marketing the Village of Flossmoor to new potential residents.

At the superintendent's desk of HFHS for the past 14 years has been Dr. Von Mansfield, a man of many talents who has served HFHS and the surrounding communities for nearly two decades. However, joining Mansfield in the role of superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year is Dr. Scott Wakeley, the successor to Mansfield who will welcome retirement on June 30, 2022.

"I have had the great privilege of serving our communities for almost 20 years and am proud of the work our school community has accomplished together and am looking forward to working with Dr. Wakeley during the transition," said Dr. Mansfield in a press release announcing Wakeley's hiring.

The 2021-2022 school year at HFHS will be a unique year in which Mansfield and Wakeley will be working side by side as superintendent. It's not a brand-new concept – recently Dr. Dale Mitchell served as a year-long mentor to incoming superintendent Dr. Scott McCalister in Homewood School District 153 — but something fairly unusual at the high school level.

Despite an impressive resume of 18-plus years as a superintendent himself, Wakeley has appreciated the expert guidance Mansfield has provided as he transitions into what he feels is one of the most sought-after superintendent positions in the state.

"We've kind of coined it as a relay race where the two runners hand the baton off but both of them are running at the same time, versus somebody stopping and another person starting," said Wakeley. "There are so many complexities in a large District, so many personalities, that it takes time to get to know it all. In most districts, that first year the superintendent is getting to know how things function but the board and the community have offered me a tremendous opportunity here."

Mansfield's career with Homewood-Flossmoor School District spans nearly two decades. He has served as District 233 superintendent since the 2008-2009 school year; prior to that he served as Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School principal from 2001-2008 and as a science teacher with an emphasis on chemistry and physics.

Wakeley joins HFHS following eight years as superintendent at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School District 307. Additionally, Wakeley has previously served as superintendent at Yorkville Community Unit School District 115 and at Genoa-Kingston Community Unit School District 424, among other career accomplishments.

"We've been able to take advantage of Dr. Wakeley's experiences and blend those skills with what exists here to take us from point A to point B even better and even further," said Mansfield. "I think that will bode well for him in the future relative to positioning himself in the school district to continue to move forward."

Visit www.hfhighschool.org/news to learn more about Wakeley, Mansfield and the year-long transition of superintendent.



Dr. Von Mansfield



Dr. Scott Wakeley

Fun Fact About Dr. Mansfield

Did you know that prior to his career in education, Von Mansfield played five years of professional football, including two seasons in the National Football League? After being drafted in the fifth round by the Atlanta Falcons, Mansfield played the 1982 NFL season with the Philadelphia Eagles as a defensive back and kick returner. Mansfield then left the NFL but returned four years later and played for the Green Bay Packers during the 1987 season.

department updates

Community Back Together at National Night Out

Establishing meaningful, lasting relationships with community members of all ages is a significant priority for the Flossmoor Police and Fire Departments. Especially in a tight-knit community like the Village of Flossmoor. That is precisely why the Village, along with the emergency departments, decided to introduce the community to National Night Out.

“Transparency is important in the Department and across the Village, and National Night Out is a great way for people to learn more about public service,” said Flossmoor Police Chief Tod Kamleiter.

For the first time since bringing the event to Flossmoor, organizers decided to expand the event to also include the Flossmoor Department of Public Works and its Touch a Truck activities, which were crowd favorites at the 2021 celebration.

“I think we had a better turnout than we did two years ago because we combined everything into a ‘public safety’ type of event,” said Deputy Chief Clint Wagner. “The weather was absolutely perfect but a lot of the kids really like the Touch a Truck stuff, so I think that drew a lot of new families out tonight.”

While Touch a Truck did draw crowds of excited children, it wasn’t the only crowd-pleasing event. That award goes to the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board’s live fire display. As flames billowed out of the demonstration unit, oohs and ahhs rang out from the crowd as groups of kids (and adults) watched the Flossmoor



Hudson and Ken Schmidt (foreground), Cammie Nelson and Police Chief Tod Kamleiter (background), and others participate in the water balloon toss at Flossmoor’s National Night Out.

Fire Department spring into action to extinguish the flames. The lessons learned and relationships established during National Night Out, though, were the most important aspect of the event.

“It’s a great way for the community and the public to come together and have a fun and positive experience,” said Flossmoor Police Officer Eddie Salisbury. “They get to learn more about the Department, understand that we’re here to help, and it’s a great way for the Department to open up.”

Join the Flossmoor Fire Department

The Flossmoor Fire Department is always looking for reliable, high-quality professionals to join the battalion, but do you know what benefits come along with joining the Flossmoor Fire Department as a paid-on-call firefighter? Significant career training at no cost to you!

Following a clear physical exam and background check, new paid-on-call firefighters receive comprehensive, in-house training from the Department’s skilled full-time staff. After four months on the department, new firefighters are enrolled in the fire academy. After graduating from the fire academy, new hires are then enrolled in EMT school, training that typically costs anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Upon graduating from EMT training, Flossmoor Fire Department paid-on-call firefighters then have the potential to earn their

paramedic’s license through the Department, again, at no cost to them. In order to take advantage of these career advancements, paid-on-call employees are required to respond to 25 percent of all available calls. As candidates continue to advance through the department, additional promotional opportunities are available, as well as the potential for full-time employment, either as sworn or contracted employees.

Paid-on-call firefighter applicants must be 18 years or older, have a high school diploma, and live within five miles of the Village of Flossmoor. Applicants must also be able to pass a physical exam and comprehensive background check.

For those interested in applying to be a paid-on-call firefighter, visit www.flossmoor.org or pay a trip to the Flossmoor Fire Department at 2800 Flossmoor Road.

commission corner

Public Works Service

The Village of Flossmoor Department of Public Works is a 24-hour, emergency response service responsible for operating and maintaining the Village's public facilities and infrastructure. The Department of Public Works is dedicated to ensuring that Village residents have safe, well-maintained public areas for work and play. With a long and varied list of responsibilities, from maintaining water, wastewater and storm drainage systems to cleaning vacant lots and keeping streets maintained and clear of ice and snow, the Flossmoor Department of Public Works provides a significant impact on the day-to-day life of residents.

Contact the Department of Public Works:

- (708) 957-4100
Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- (708) 957-4500
After hours, non-emergency police number
- Email Dawn Lencioni-Kortum, Department Secretary at dlencioni@flossmoor.org.

FLOSSMOOR Fest

September 11, 2021 Fest Schedule

Main Stage

- All Day – Go DJ
- 12 – 1 p.m. Soft Open – Evolution
- 1 p.m. – Opening Ceremony + HF Band
- 1:30 p.m. – Jesse White Tumblers
- 2:30 – 4 p.m. – Cielito Lindo
- 4:30 – 6 p.m. – Not My Dad
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. – Feel Good Party Band
- 8:30 – 10 p.m. – Dynamic Sound Band

Children's Activities

- Rides: 2 – 7 p.m. on Central Drive and Leavitt
- Video Game Truck: 2 – 7 p.m.
- Kiddie Train: 2 – 7 p.m.
- Exotic Animal Show: 4 p.m.
- Thomas Photographic Photo Booth: 4 – 6 p.m.
- Walk Around Magic: 4 – 7 p.m.
- Glitter Tattoos: 4 – 7 p.m. at CRC booth
- Matt Wilhelm: 5 p.m.



Stay tuned to the Village website www.flossmoor.org and social media for up-to-date COVID-19 precautions.

Identify Local Flora with the Green Commission

The Flossmoor Public Library in cooperation with the Flossmoor Green Commission has established a self-guided garden walking tour around the Library premises. The garden plantings are now labeled so you can identify over 40 varieties of plants including flowering shrubs, ground covers, perennials and trees in the garden. Take some time during each season to walk around the library educating yourself and your family about these beautiful plants. Make notes and plant some of them in your own garden too!

One Book, One Flossmoor

The community program One Book, One Flossmoor returns this fall with a new selection: *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, which tells the true story of the murders of dozens of members of the Osage Nation in 1920s Oklahoma. Stay tuned to the Village's website and social media for the virtual book club date and time. Sponsored by the Community Relations Commission, One Book, One Flossmoor is an opportunity for neighbors to connect in conversation over books.

Get Ready to Recycle

It's easy being green in Flossmoor, thanks to the community-wide Recyclepalooza extravaganza. Close out summer with a cleaning spree! Clean out your closets, garage, attic, basement and cupboards for all types of recyclable items and bring them to Recyclepalooza on Saturday, October 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of Parker Junior High. This year's Recyclepalooza will follow the same COVID-19 rules as the 2020 event. Please stay in your vehicle. Sort items by category, clearly marked and place in your trunk. Volunteers will unload contact free!

Recyclable items include:

- TVs (\$20 per set)
- Electronics
- Metals
- Used gift cards
- Bikes
- Glass jars (half & gallon)
- Sporting goods
- Eyeglasses
- American Flags
- Oral health products
- Trophies
- Expired credit cards
- Razors (used)
- LEGOs

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

Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoor.org

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Michelle Nelson

Through all the ups and downs of the past year and a half, one thing that has remained constant is the care and compassion of Flossmoor neighbors. It was wonderful seeing neighbors come together to support local charities, Bike the Gem, enjoy live music, celebrate graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings, and participate in activities across Flossmoor all summer long. While it's impossible to predict the future, I'm looking forward to continued outdoor dining, fundraising for the Flossmoor Public Art Commission, strategic planning, beginning our long-awaited road resurfacing project, and ongoing economic development.

With support from the Village and residents, our local restaurants continue to be excellent

outdoor dining options for every meal of the day. Several of our local restaurants also carry pantry items that can help elevate your next meal. Consider having your next meeting or gathering with friends at a local venue or at your own home with carryout!

One of the projects I'm looking forward to tackling this fall is refreshing the Village's strategic plan. Four years ago, the Village solicited feedback from residents to develop a plan to address the issues that matter most to you, and now it's time for an update. Since we've welcomed so many new residents to Flossmoor during the past four years, it is time to hear from all of you to reflect on the Village's current goals and look ahead to all future goals. If you haven't already, visit www.flossmoor.org to share your thoughts via survey on what you'd like to see us achieve over the next four years and beyond.

Not only is Flossmoor a great place to live, it also continues to be a great place to do business! This summer we were thrilled to see the addition of Ruby Ella Sweets and Alchemical Incorporated and the relocation of All Smiles Orthodontics in Downtown Flossmoor and Product Freak in Flossmoor Commons. And, after years of waiting, construction of Dunkin' Donuts began in July along Vollmer Road, just east of Meijer. Flossmoor might be running on Dunkin' by November!

As many of you know, this year marks the 20-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. To honor the day, a memorial area and bench will be installed in front of the Flossmoor Fire Station. Once it is complete, please visit the memorial area and take a moment to honor our first responders and those who died on September 11. As I reflect upon that horrific day, I think about how it changed us, how it united us, and how we can continue to work together to support one another. I'm looking forward to celebrating our community and our spirit on September 11 by running the Hidden Gem Half Marathon in the morning, spending the afternoon at Flossmoor Fest, and participating in a memorial sponsored by the HF Park District in the evening. Thank you for all you do to help build this community. Please know that I am deeply honored to be your neighbor and your Mayor!