

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Winter 2021
Volume 31 / Number 3



CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN FLOSSMOOR

Carla, Julia, Kenny and Naomi Lee of Flossmoor celebrate the season with hot cocoa, jammies and a warm, festive fire.

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village officials

Michelle Nelson, Mayor
mnelson@flossmoor.org

George Lofton, Trustee
glofton@flossmoor.org

Joni Bradley-Scott, Trustee
jbradleyscott@flossmoor.org

James Mitros, Trustee
jmitros@flossmoor.org

Gary Daggett, Trustee
gdaggett@flossmoor.org

Rosalind Mustafa, Trustee
rmustafa@flossmoor.org

Brian Driscoll, Trustee
bdriscoll@flossmoor.org

Gina LoGalbo, Village Clerk
glogalbo@flossmoor.org

Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager
bwachtel@flossmoor.org

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

November 27

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

November 27

Tree Lighting — 3 to 5:30 p.m. / Flossmoor Library & Flossmoor Park Visit Santa and enjoy some hot cocoa on the Flossmoor Library lawn, then join Santa and a parade of carolers to Flossmoor Park for the annual holiday tree lighting.

November 28-December 6

Hanukkah — Nightly lighting of the Menorah, starting November 28.

December 4

Gingerbread House Tours — 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 4 to 6 p.m. Register online at www.flossmoor.org for a tour of Janet Gustafson's homemade gingerbread village. Tours of six will take place every 15 minutes.

December 11

Holiday Story Hour — 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. / Flossmoor Library Enjoy a story time adventure with professional story teller Emma L. Anderson, a Homewood-Flossmoor High School graduate and Chicago-based actor, then take home a craft from Panda Baby Cookies.

December 16

Holiday Light Parade — 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Take in the sights and sounds of the Holiday Light Parade as the Flossmoor Police, Fire and Public Works Departments travel through the neighborhoods with their vehicles adorned with holiday displays.

December 23

Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Eve

December 24

Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Day

December 26-January 1, 2022

Kwanzaa — Nightly lighting of the Kinara in honor of the six days of Kwanzaa.

December 30

Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Eve

December 31

Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day

January 16, 2022

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



CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN FLOSSMOOR

The holiday season has always brought magic to the Village of Flossmoor and to honor the 25th anniversary of Flossmoor's first holiday festival, this year's event is bigger, better and all winter long.

The month-long celebration of the season starts on November 27, Small Business Saturday, with a day full of activities. Start out with a visit to Santa for photos and warm hot chocolate from the Lions Club and cookies from Meijer on the lawn of the Flossmoor Public Library. Stroll the picturesque Downtown adorned with holiday lights and enjoy live performances by Phil Lee and guest DJs.

After enjoying the festivities of Small Business Saturday, join the parade of carolers to Flossmoor Park for the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony, where the U.S. Marine Corps will be collecting Toys for Tots. To make the day extra special, Village staff is challenging residents to make the toy drive the largest single day toy collection in Flossmoor history.

Another exciting element of the celebration of the season is the launch of Flossmoor's Winter Bucket List. With activities like, "take a drive to look at holiday lights," "lace up your skates," or "shop Flossmoor for your gift giving and 'keep the cheer here'" the winter bucket list is filled with fun family activities for the entirety of the winter season.

Festivities continues on December 4 with exclusive tours of Janet Gustafson's annual gingerbread village display. Book a reservation from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. or from 4 to 6 p.m. on

December 4, enjoy the holiday scene, then hit the town for a festive and romantic date night. Looking for something for the whole family? Come out on December 11 for a holiday story hour at the Flossmoor Public Library. Enjoy a story time adventure with professional story teller Emma L. Anderson, a Homewood-Flossmoor High School graduate and Chicago-based actor, then take home a craft from Panda Baby Cookies. On Thursday, December 16 take in the sights and sounds of the Holiday Light Parade. Set up some lawn chairs or a blanket and watch as the Flossmoor Police, Fire and Public Works Departments travel through the neighborhoods with their vehicles adorned with holiday displays.

After finding a vintage Flossmoor newsletter from the winter of 1996, Flossmoor Program and Events Coordinators Marcus Stennis and Stephanie Wright decided to breathe new life into Flossmoor's former Winterfest, resulting in the month-long celebration of the season.

"It's less about creating something new or adding to the annual event, but more about expanding it to provide entertainment for all ages," said Wright. "In the past it has been geared more toward families with children, so we wanted to create something that everyone could enjoy. It's a celebration of our community so we want all community members to feel welcome."

To confirm times for the month's events and to register for a gingerbread house tour, visit www.flossmoor.org.

flossmoor faces & places

Community Relations Commissioner Rosalind Henderson Mustafa Earns Mayoral Appointment



Rosalind Henderson Mustafa

Rosalind Henderson Mustafa is the newest member of the Flossmoor Village Board of Trustees following an appointment by Mayor Michelle Nelson. Rosalind's appointment fills the vacant seat left by former Trustee Perry Hoag.

"Rosalind has provided a wide range of service to Flossmoor for years, not only as a commissioner, but as a community member and a longtime volunteer," said Nelson. "She also has an impressive professional resume that will be an asset to the decision-making processes of our Village Board."

Mustafa's volunteer work includes service on the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission, the eta Creative Arts Foundation, Open Books and the Rald Institute, as well as assisting You Matter 2 Inc. with the Juneteenth Festival, serving the Hidden Gem Half Marathon

as a course marshal, and guest writing for the HF Chronicle. Mustafa also played an integral role in reviewing the Village of Flossmoor Police Department's body cam policy. Professionally, Mustafa previously worked as an adult services attendant at the Flossmoor Public Library and enjoyed a career with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, the City Colleges of Chicago and Harold Washington College. Mustafa holds an MBA in Finance from DePaul University.

"All of the candidates were impressive in different ways. It was a hard decision, but ultimately, Rosalind's work on public policy, both professionally and for the Village, really made her a standout," said Nelson.

As trustee, Mustafa looks to focus on three specific areas: Financial management, economic development and community relations with an emphasis on diversity and inclusion.

"I am excited about contributing to the Village's economic development strategy. I also believe it is vitally important to foster the inclusion of diverse perspectives and varied interests while remaining financially stable, achieving sustainable growth, and providing social and cultural well-being for Flossmoor residents," said Mustafa.

Mustafa's appointment fills a vacancy following the resignation of former Trustee Perry Hoag. A board vacancy is filled by a Mayoral appointment pending an affirmative vote by the Board of Trustees. Per statute, Mustafa will serve the remainder of Hoag's term which will end in 2023.

Matthew Berk Named Assistant Fire Chief



Matthew Berk

his promotion to Assistant Fire Chief.

Born and raised in Flossmoor, Berk has served the Flossmoor Fire Department for more than 16 years, starting first as a volunteer in May 2000. Berk then went on to work for the Calumet

Flossmoor Fire Department officer Matthew Berk continues his leadership advancement in the Flossmoor Fire Department following

City Fire Department and the City of Wheaton, before being hired in 2011 as the Flossmoor Fire Department full-time Training Administrator.

Before being named Assistant Fire Chief, Berk held the position of Shift Captain, a leadership role established in 2018 after the department restructured. As a member of the Flossmoor Fire Department, Berk has served a number of important roles and worked to establish a combined area training program, which includes seven area fire departments that participate in combined training each month.

Berk holds his master's degree

in fire administration, a bachelors in fire science and is currently working toward earning his Executive Fire Officer certificate. With Berk's promotion, the Flossmoor Fire Department hired Daniel Bracken to serve as Captain. Bracken has worked as a volunteer and contracted employee for nine years with the Flossmoor Fire Department, but was hired in August as full-time captain.

Bracken joins the leadership team of the Flossmoor Fire Department after serving the Chicago Fire Department for seven years. He also boasts a career in fire service of more than 20 years throughout the region.

Flossmoor Duo Heads Up Village Programs and Events

The Village of Flossmoor has named Marcus Stennis and Stephanie Wright to the shared Program and Events Coordinator position. As Flossmoor residents, Stennis and Wright bring a level of enthusiasm and passion for the community that aligns perfectly with the responsibilities of the position.

“The programs and events in Flossmoor are an integral part of our community and they play an important role in connecting our residents with one another, and with our Village representatives,” said Bridget Watchel, Village Manager. “Stephanie and Marcus both impressed us with their experiences as well as their commitment to the Village, and having them working as a team allows us to bring an even greater collaborative approach to our community initiatives.”

Prior to joining the Village, Stennis served as the Senior Media Programming Manager for the Glenwood/Lynwood Library and boasts more than 15 years in marketing and programming. Stennis also possesses strong skills in project management, content management, event planning and more. As the Senior Media Programming Manager, Stennis created a number of different media programs and increased engagement by 30-percent, positioning the library as a valued community partner.

Wright also has experience as an event planner through her business, Basically Events LLC. With Basically Events LLC,



Stephanie Wright and Marcus Stennis

Wright and her business partner have organized a variety of events including weddings, birthday parties, graduation parties, block parties and more. Additionally, Wright’s experience as the lead volunteer coordinator for the Hidden Gem Half Marathon is an asset to the role of Program and Event Coordinator. Additionally, Wright is the co-founder of Lighthouse LGBTQ, a support group which serves young adults and teens in the south suburbs, specifically Homewood and Flossmoor, who are processing their sexual and gender identities.

Guillermo Galazra Joins Flossmoor Police Department



Guillermo Galazra

Being a police officer is more than law enforcement for Guillermo Galazra. What speaks to him as an officer is being part of a team and serving his community. Formerly an officer with the South Chicago Heights Police Department, Galazra joined the Flossmoor Police Department in October with a goal of working his way to detective. As a new officer on the force, Galazra has enjoyed getting to know his fellow officers and already feels a sense of pride being a part of the department.

“Everyone that works here has been great and it seems like a great community to work for,” said Galazra. “While I’m out on patrol, people always wave and they really seem to love and respect us.”

Galarza’s decision to relocate to the Flossmoor Police Department was based on his knowledge of the area and his familiarity with the surrounding communities. Though he was born in Long Beach, California, Galarza was raised in the south suburbs. He feels his knowledge of the area gives him a stronger connection and will benefit his ability to serve.

“I wanted to work somewhere nearby, somewhere that I was familiar with so I could have that connection,” said Galarza.

In his free time, Galarza enjoys playing soccer, taking his dog for walks, and getting to know new people. In his efforts to connect with the community, Galarza encourages residents to stop him to say “hi” and to have a friendly conversation.

NEWS TO USE!



Serve Your Community as a Crossing Guard

Are you interested in public service? Help keep Flossmoor's children safe by becoming a school crossing guard! School crossing guards are responsible for safely crossing children at designated locations on school attendance days. Work hours during the school year are from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. and again from 2:45 to 3:15 p.m., based on the start and dismissal times of the school. Candidates must be dependable and at least 18 years of age with strong people and customer service skills. Candidates must also pass a background check, pre-employment drug test, and have reliable means of transportation. The rate of pay is \$25 per day. For those interested, you can view the job description on www.flossmoor.org and pick up and drop off an application at the Flossmoor Police Department, 2800 Flossmoor Road.

Keep Your Pipes Warm This Winter

When temperatures drop, interior and exterior water pipes are at a high risk to freeze and burst, which can lead to major damage in your home. During extreme cold, the Flossmoor Public Works and Flossmoor Building Departments recommend a few common-sense measures to keep pipes warm and water running:

- Keep garage doors closed to prevent loss of heat, especially if you have water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Let cold water drip from faucets that are served by exposed pipes. A steady water flow maintains movement in the pipes.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature day and night.
- If you plan to be away during cold weather, do not leave your heat setting temperature lower than 55° F.
- Purchase pipe insulation and wrap pipes.
- For long term protection, add insulation to attics, basements and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain warmer temperatures in those areas.
- If you have a water meter behind a panel in the wall, open the panel so the meter can get heat, or it can freeze and cause water damage.

Don't Trash Your Tree

Make it a green holiday by participating in the annual community tree and lights recycling program! Did you know that evergreens are biodegradable? That means they can be easily reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes, like padding the trails of Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center. Instead of leaving your tree on the curbside, which is then simply placed in a landfill, wasting valuable space, give it back to nature this season! Drop off your tree (NO YARD WASTE) to Irons Oaks at the Vollmer Road parking lot anytime between December 26 and January 19, 2022 to be recycled and reused. Trees should be stacked neatly with the trunks pointed toward the parking lot. Trees will not be accepted after January 19.

Holiday light and extension cord recycling will also resume this year. If your lights have lost their twinkle, drop them off anytime November 22 to January 19, 2022 at any of the following locations: Flossmoor Village Hall north entrance, Irons Oaks, HF Racquet & Fitness Center, and Irwin Center. Since the lights collection started in 2011, the community has worked together to recycle upwards of 9,500 pounds of lights and cords. These are easily recycled items so it's a great way to keep unwanted items out of landfills. For more information or questions regarding the program, visit www.hfparks.com.

New Phone Dialing Standards

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. In order to support nationwide deployment of 988, mandatory 10-digit local dialing has been implemented. If your area code is 708 you will need to dial the area code for all calls going forward.

With the implementation, local calls dialed with only 7-digits may not be completed and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. If you get this recording, you must hang up and dial again 1+10 digits (1 + area code + telephone number). More information regarding the mandatory change comes from the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/ten-digit-dialing>.

House Watch Program

The Flossmoor Police Department House Watch Program allows residents who are leaving town to notify the police department and request additional neighborhood patrols. Officers will periodically conduct security checks of the residence, which includes ensuring all exterior doors are locked, and no apparent damage or unauthorized entry has occurred at the home. Although this is not a guarantee that your home will not be damaged or burglarized, it gives you some added protection. We encourage you to make arrangements with a family member, friend or neighbor to also check on your home.

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

Parking Safety This Winter

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 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.

With regard to the limitation of parking, keep in mind the following:

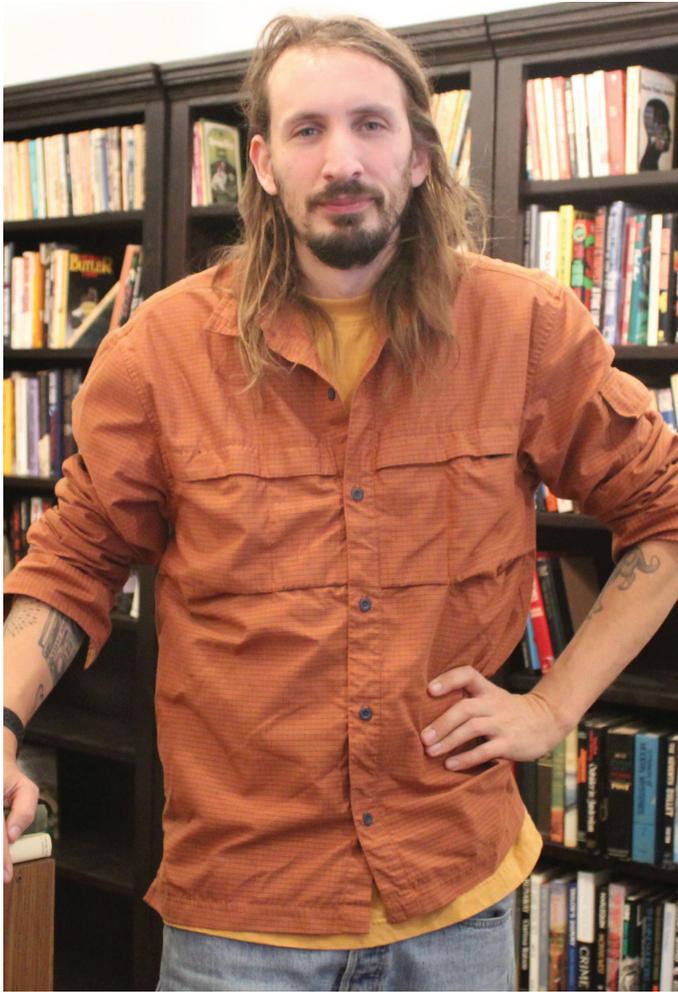
- Areas signed around Western Avenue, Heather Hill and Flossmoor Hills schools continue to operate with school parking regulations that exist to accommodate school drop off and pick up.
- Parking around churches and parks is regulated by non-hydrant side regulations and any signage that exists.
- Several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

Budget Calendar

The Village of Flossmoor's operating budget is the annual implementation plan of the Village's vision and goals. Each year, the Village adopts a new budget prior to the start of its fiscal year on May 1. The purpose of the budget is to align financial resources with the operating needs of the Village. The Village's budget is discussed in an open and transparent process at a series of Village Board meetings leading up to its adoption in April 2022. You can be a part of the Village's annual budget process by attending those meetings. The draft budget will be presented and discussed at Village Board meetings on March 7, March 21 and April 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall. The budget document will also be available on the Village's website and the Flossmoor Public Library for public review during that timeframe. A formal public hearing will be held on April 18 prior to the budget's adoption.



business spotlight



Weston Auburn brings his passion for used books to Flossmoor at Bookman's Outpost.

Bookman's Outpost Finds Home on Sterling

Book lovers rejoice, Flossmoor is home to a new, used book store, Bookman's Outpost located at 1044 Sterling Avenue.

When Weston Auburn moved to Flossmoor following the COVID-19 pandemic, one of his first visits was to Flossmoor's Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl. He was so impressed by the one-of-a-kind store, that he decided he would take the dive into business ownership and share his passion for vintage books.

"I've been collecting books in my free time for quite a while and I had a couple of large collections, so I was starting to see a need for a brick-and-mortar," said Auburn. "I was selling books online, but selling on Ebay is not my passion. Now, I'm in a prime location."

The collection at Bookman's Outpost offers treats to book lovers of all kinds. From inexpensive paperback books to collector's and first editions, Auburn scours all types of sources to curate his collections. The books at Bookman's Outpost also range in genre with something for everyone, said Auburn.

As a brand-new business, opened in late October, Auburn said he looks forward to getting to know the community, learning what book collections people are interested in, and exploring new areas in the region where he can discover unique collections.

Bookman's Outpost is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, closed on Monday and Tuesday. To connect with Auburn or to inquire about the collection, email bookmansoutpost@gmail.com.

Guaranteed Rate is Open for Business

When the housing market boom hit the south suburbs, Corey Singleton knew that opening a branch of Guaranteed Rate in Flossmoor was the right move. So right in fact, that Singleton didn't even consider any other location.

"I am an HF (high school) graduate and I love this community," said Singleton. "The corporate office offered me an office in the West Loop of Chicago, an area that is really booming right now, but I was very specific about wanting to service this commu-

nity. I want us to be a pillar for financing in this area."

While Singleton has only been with Guaranteed Rate since March, 2021, his career spans 17 years in the mortgage industry. But, opening his own branch is a fresh start for Singleton and he couldn't be happier with the potential he sees in becoming the area's go-to finance agency.

Singleton also has set a number of goals for himself and his team of nine employees, including working with retail and commercial lenders. But, to

achieve his top goal, Singleton said he needs the community's support.

"We have a goal to finance one out of every four homes in the South Suburbs," said Singleton. "We are familiar with the market, so if you're thinking about financing a mortgage, we are your local experts."

Guaranteed Rate is located at 3327 Vollmer Road, suite A. To contact Singleton or one of his fellow loan officers, visit www.rate.com and search for Flossmoor or contact Singleton directly at (773) 938-9224.

school spotlight

Science Gets Activated in Flossmoor School District 161

When students returned to the classrooms in Flossmoor School District 161 this fall, not only did they get to enjoy in-person learning once again, but a more hands-on learning experience than ever before. The Flossmoor School District 161 Board of Education introduced in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year the Activate Science curriculum, a K through eight science curriculum that offers more hands-on experience, a drastic shift from the e-learning many were doing during the 2020-2021 school year. It has made a world of difference in terms of engagement and keeps the District's curriculum standards current and relevant, according to Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent.

"The new science curriculum adoption continues our process of updating and revising our school resources to ensure that our children have access to the most current and effective information," said Smith. "Our new program, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards, has created a lot of excited and engaged students because of the hands-on experiments and rigorous material."

Not only were students welcomed back to in-person learning, but the shift to embrace the Activate Science curriculum resources allowed teachers to increase the engaging, hands-on materials students are given, and increase the parent connections to the learning experience of students.

Because Activate Science blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write and debate like real scientists and engineers, eighth-grade science teacher Karen Roorda said she can see how students are looking at science class with a whole new lens.

"The kids are all in. It has really given the spark back to the kids and some of us teachers, too," said Roorda. "These kids spent a year and a half looking at a screen, we knew it would be hard to bring them back in and engage them. They needed something different to capture their attentions again, and it's been great."

Another added benefit that Roorda is looking forward to in the future, is the implementation of the Activate Science curriculum across the District, from kindergarten through eighth grade. According to Curriculum Coordinator Carol Humm, that was a deciding factor in implementing a new science curriculum district-wide.

"We're seeing now, five years into our math program, we're hearing our Junior High teachers say they're seeing

students coming in with skills they haven't seen before. That's our goal, is getting students even more prepared when they get to the next level," said Humm. "Now, our teachers are seeing the alignment of standards with the science program and all of our resources are aligned. It's all working toward the same goal, whereas before it wasn't quite there."



Top: Lucy Kilka and Ruby Such examine worms in Kelly Wallace's 4th grade science class.

Bottom: Gabriel Wilson and Zachariah Sykes sift through sediment and document their findings in Andy Fine's 2nd grade class.



department updates

Safety Reminders for a Happy Holiday Season

As another holiday season approaches, it is easy to become overwhelmed by activities, events, busy schedules and more, and forget about the importance of holiday safety. The Flossmoor Police Department would like to remind all residents of some important safety tips to make this holiday season a happy one.

Typically, as the holidays approach, local police departments see an increase in thefts, whether they are thefts of a home, vehicle or person.

Here are some tips to keep the holidays safe and merry.

- Make a house look as if someone is always home.
- Don't leave packages outside in front of your house.
- Keep lights on inside and outside. Use timers to achieve this when no one is home. If a house is the only dark one on the block, it sticks out.
- For extended trips away from home, remember to sign up for the Police House Watch. Register your house online at www.flossmoor.org under "Village Services" or visit the Flossmoor Police Department to complete the form.

When shopping, don't overburden yourself with too many packages or bags; a purse or wallet can be an easy mark for thieves. Don't become too engrossed in shopping as to let your guard down and don't place your purchases within eyesight inside a vehicle. While a person is in the store shopping, some thieves are in the parking lot looking for merchandise that has already been purchased. Remember to place bags and packages in the vehicle's trunk or out of plain sight, covered by a blanket or other material, and make sure all the vehicle's doors are locked. This simple prevention measure can make a big impact. The majority of thefts from vehicles occur from unlocked doors.

When you return home with all of your holiday goodies, bring packages in through a closed garage if and when possible. Once the items have been removed from their original packages, make sure to break down boxes and place them in cans or bags for trash pickup as to not broadcast the items, especially those of higher value you now have in your home. If you have a Christmas tree near a window with gifts underneath, close blinds, shades, etc. when no one is home. Always lock doors, windows, garage doors, car doors, during day and night, whether you are at home or not.

Have a safe and happy holiday season, from the Flossmoor Police Department!

Winter Tree Pruning

The Village of Flossmoor's annual tree pruning cycle continues this winter in the Heather Hill neighborhood. The specific pruning locations are between Flossmoor Road and Vollmer Road from Governors Highway to the Metra railroad tracks.

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

Lower branches on small and younger trees will be left on the tree as long as possible. Younger trees need as many branches as possible, to promote root establishment and increase trunk growth. Branches are removed as soon as they cause clearance issues. Please contact Flossmoor Public Works with questions or concerns at (708)957-4100.

'Tis the Season for Snow Plows

Snow removal often takes a few hours after a storm has stopped to clear Flossmoor's roadways, and can take even longer during heavy or extended snowfalls. When driving, please give snowplows plenty of room to operate and NEVER step out in front of a snow plow or attempt to get a driver's attention. Help our Public Works Department of this winter by considering these suggestions when clearing snow from your 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 may also result in the same snow being deposited into your neighbor's driveway should the snowplow make an additional pass.
- In order to make pedestrian travel safer and easier for everyone, clear snow and ice from the walks adjacent to your property.
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants to permit easy access in the event of an emergency.

commission corner

Another Year of Being Green

Nearly 400 cars passed through Parker Junior High School during the annual Recyclepalooza, and the collection results are equally impressive. Among some of the highest collections included 473 pairs of eyeglasses, two full truck beds of clothes, household items and sporting goods for the Jones Community Center, 208 plastic gift cards, 226 trophies, and 32 American Flags. The Flossmoor Green Commission also collected 237 ink/laser jet printers, 2,000 pounds of electronics, 60 pieces of hotel shampoos and soaps, and 60 televisions. Participants were also invited to recycle plastic bread tags and it was a huge success. More than 781 bread tags were collected by SCARE and Danielle Cares for Chairs. The bread tags are taken by Danielle Cares for Chairs to a recycling plant and the funds collected are used to purchase wheelchairs for children in need. Also collected during the 2021 Recyclepalooza event included 25 pounds of towels and blankets, 36 razors, and two and a half pounds of aluminum can tabs. A special thanks goes out to all volunteers, participants and our partners for another great year. You are making a difference!



Ketia Franklin, a sophomore at HF High School, volunteers at Recyclepalooza.

Join Us In Person for A Day of Service

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service is on Monday, January 17, 2022. Join the Village of Flossmoor, the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission and our partners in making this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day a day ON, not a day OFF!

We are seeking local non-profits to host service projects for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. You think up the project and we will bring the volunteers to you! In 1994 Congress declared Dr. King's federal holiday a National Day of Service. Over the last two decades, millions of people have given back on this day. Since 2015, the Village of Flossmoor, along with our partners, has participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and this year we would like to create even more community volunteer opportunities by increasing the number of volunteer sites.

Our current project partners include Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization dedicated to building and delivering bunk beds to children in need, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County, but we can't wait for the rest of you to join. For more information or to host a service project, contact Marcus Stennis at (708) 798-2300, ext. 5471 or by email at mstennis@flossmoor.org. You can also visit www.flossmoor.org to sign up!

Barrels of Hope Auction a Smashing Success

After a nearly two-year public art celebration, the Flossmoor Public Art Commission would like to send a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in the Barrels of Hope art fundraiser. Through the public auction, the Art Commission successfully auctioned all 23 art barrels and raised nearly \$7,000 to support the Village's public sculpture collection.

The Barrels of Hope public art fundraiser was modeled after the Northern Kentucky Bourbon Barrel Project, and engaged local artists to paint the barrels with messages of hope, love and inspiration. The results of the artistry demonstrated the incredible talents of the community. The subsequent financial support from the public bidding on the barrels makes a big impact in allowing the Flossmoor Public Art Commission to place and maintain all the amazing sculptures around Flossmoor.

As an example, the support of the Public Art Commission's customized dedication bricks completely covered the cost of the restoration of "Survivor" by Howard Kalish, a prominent piece on the corner of Western Avenue and Flossmoor Road. Drive by and see what a difference restoration can make to a signature display in Flossmoor. Additionally, the money raised by the Art Commission goes to placing new sculptures throughout Flossmoor, like the collection's newest sculpture "Flying Home" by Hilde DeBruyne at Highland Park.

The Flossmoor Public Art Commission thanks all of the artists for their creativity and talents, and the community for its continued support.

Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoor.org

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Michelle Nelson

Happy Holidays! For many of us the holidays are filled with decorating, shopping, and gathering with family and friends. Please consider extending a gesture to spread extra holiday cheer this year to neighbors through small acts of kindness. Share holiday greetings, deliver hand-written notes or cards, bake extra sweet treats to share, spend the evening

caroling, or help with yard work or snow removal. Thank you to everyone who goes out of their way to check in on and assist neighbors, especially during the winter months.

Please continue the support, and avoid supply chain issues and shipping delays, by shopping local this holiday season. Flossmoor businesses have been busy preparing for the holiday season and have added an impressive selection of gifts for all including those who love to cook, are into fashion and personal care, are avid readers, home decorators, folks who practice mindfulness, those with a sweet tooth, music lovers, and even our furry friends. Shopping for a friend who seems to have everything? Consider a gift card to one

of our wonderful Flossmoor restaurants. Everyone needs to eat! Our local businesses sponsor youth sports, community events, and organizations that make Flossmoor the gem that it is and they appreciate your continued patronage.

The holidays will look a bit different this year with a month-long celebration starting with our annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 27. Downtown businesses will also feature short and festive window performances which will also take place on December 4, December 11, and December 18 at the top of each hour from 6 to 8:30 p.m. These family-friendly activities are outdoors and are the perfect addition to your holiday traditions. Stop by when you're out looking at holiday light displays or during the daytime to check out some very special window themes. Check out all the other activities planned for the month on page three or by visiting www.flossmoor.org.

The Village Board and I, along with Village staff, continue to work on the Village's strategic plan. Thank you to the nearly 400 residents who took the time to share their thoughts with us via in-person meetings and surveys. Feedback was similar to what was expressed in 2017. Flossmoor residents value strong financial management, effective communication, and friendly and responsive staff. Residents are also interested in improved infrastructure and home values, and added dining and shopping options. We expect to share a comprehensive plan by early next year and once released, we will be providing regular reports on our progress.

Thank you for your support of Village events and projects! Please have a safe and festive winter season. From my family to yours, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!