

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Spring 2022
Volume 31 / Number 4



PHOTO BY THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHIC.

FINDING MORE IN FLOSSMOOR

New Flossmoor resident Heather Olsen (foreground, right) and her brother Peter (left) enjoy an afternoon of snacks and smiles with new friends and fellow new residents, Angie and Kim Coderre, their four-month old daughter Kate, and Rachel and Mauricio Avila at Wiley's Grill.

A Full Team

Flossmoor welcomes new Assistant Village Manager
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Running on Dunkin'

Doors open at Dunkin' on Vollmer
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Spring Awakening

Be alert for Spring construction projects
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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

March 12

St. Patrick's Day parade returns! Visit www.flossmoor.org for more details.

April 2

HF Community Cleanup and Tree Planting — Join the Southland Green Commission, the Flossmoor Green Commission, Flossmoor Public Works and volunteers for a community cleanup day.

April 4

Brush Collection Begins — Free brush collection will occur monthly on the FIRST week of each month. All brush to be collected must be set out by 7 a.m. the Monday of collection week, but no earlier than three days prior to collection. Visit www.flossmoor.org for complete details or contact the Flossmoor Department of Public Works (708) 957-4100.

April 9

New Resident Mixer — Join the Village of Flossmoor, Flossmoor School District 161, Homewood-Flossmoor High School 233 and other Village stakeholders for an evening of camaraderie, information and fun. Visit www.flossmoor.org for more details.

April 15

Vehicle Stickers and Animal Tags Purchase Deadline

April 23

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

May 7

HF Park District Park Pride — 8:30 am to 11 a.m. All Area Parks. Join in the fun as volunteers come together to beautify their parks for summer! Call the park district at (708) 957-0300 to become a Park Captain.

May 30

Village Hall closed in observance of Memorial Day

Made in Flossmoor



Jennifer Parker

Dr. Jennifer J. Parker, a former Flossmoor resident and class of 2000 alumna from Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School recently earned the distinct award of being named the 2022 Illinois State University Outstanding Young Alumni. The award, given to an ISU alum aged 40 years or younger, recognizes the contributions of outstanding young alumni to society, their profession or the university, and significant accomplishments in one's chosen field.

NEW RESIDENTS ENJOY WARM WELCOME



Angie Coderre and her four-month old daughter Kate, share a laugh with Rachel and Mauricio Avila during a fun afternoon at Wiley's Grill.

Flossmoor has experienced a slower rebuild following the 2008 housing market crash, but during the last three years, Flossmoor has become one of the hottest housing markets in all of the Chicago suburbs. Between the end of 2020 and the end of 2021, Flossmoor initialized 190 new residential water accounts and saw nearly 200 homes sold during the last two years.

Whether this trend can be attributed to the reducing appeal of “city life” following isolation during the pandemic, a desire for a change of scenery, or Flossmoor being recognized as a top suburb to raise a family, Flossmoor’s appeal to young families, architecture aficionados, and people looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, is evident. Without realizing it, Mauricio and Rachel Avila fell for Flossmoor’s charm the moment they arrived.

“I had no idea of Flossmoor’s existence. We would not have even had Flossmoor on our radar but our Realtor insisted we go see this house that she had picked out, specifically for Rachel,” said Mauricio.

“Driving down the street, even before we got to the house, we were like ‘this has to be it.’ We saw all the other houses on the street and we thought ‘wow this is going to be interesting.’ Then, the moment we stepped in the house, we knew, ‘this is the one,’” Rachel added.

That sense of belonging grew even more when the Avila’s were greeted by their Dartmouth Road neighbors and then, the rest of the community.

“It really feels like this weird little slice of Americana where people are genuinely welcoming,” said Mauricio.

Growing up in Flossmoor, Angie Coderre is familiar with that sense of welcoming and community, and while she loved growing up in Flossmoor, she didn’t expect to leave the Wrigleyville neighborhood of Chicago to return to Flossmoor to raise her own family. With her parents and grandparents still living in Flossmoor, Angie feels a deep connection to the community and is looking forward to raising her daughter alongside her wife Kim, in Flossmoor.

“Flossmoor is so accessible and the community feels so accessible,” said Angie. “Especially as a new mom, there’s a strong sense of

grace in this community.”

Heather Olsen also experienced the Flossmoor community early on, though with a little more “curiosity” than her new-resident counterparts. When looking to relocate from her townhouse in Tinley Park, Olsen was adamant with her Realtor that she did not want to end up in a “subdivision where everything looks the same” which resulted in the two exploring the diverse housing stock of Flossmoor. Though she was pleased with the uniqueness that the architecture and neighborhoods in Flossmoor provided, she didn’t find her perfect match in a home. So, she decided she would build it.

As one of the newest homes in all of Flossmoor, Olsen’s white, two-story home along Flossmoor Road, quickly drew the attention of her neighbors, something she found to be unexpectedly pleasant.

“A few neighbors came over, brought some wine, introduced themselves. Everyone was super friendly. I almost didn’t know how to respond,” laughed Olsen. “I lived next to people for 15 years (in my townhouse) and had no idea who they were, so this was very new to me. But, it was a great welcome to the neighborhood.”

Flossmoor will celebrate all new residents during the annual New Resident Mixer on April 9. Festivities will include “Taste of Flossmoor” hors d’oeuvres, a social hour, a “things you must know” presentation, and much, much more. If you are a new resident, keep an eye out for an invitation coming directly to your mailbox, or email the Village at info@flossmoor.org with questions.

flossmoor faces & places

Finley Forever Foundation Bringing Hope



The Bracken family shares a quiet moment with two-year-old Finley during her treatment at Lurie Children's Hospital.

Losing a loved one to a battle with cancer is a tremendous heartbreak. Losing a child is inconceivable. But, instead of letting the grief consume them, Flossmoor Fire Department Captain Dan Bracken and his wife Lacey, inspired by their story and the stories of other families, decided they would use their grief as motivation to inspire and help other families battling childhood cancer.

"There are two ways to look at cancer; you can let it consume you, or you can consume it," said Dan. "We decided to consume it."

In 2019, Dan and Lacey received the devastating news that their joy filled, two-year-old daughter Finley had a rare form of cancer, neuroblastoma. The journey ahead would include weeks of treatment including stem cell transplants, radiation and chemotherapy, and to their surprise, isolation.

Because children who have received stem cell transplants are highly immunocompromised, Finley was not able to leave her room for the six weeks of her treatment at Lurie Children's Hospital. Confined to a single room, Dan quickly realized they severely under prepared and under packed.

That is what inspired the Finley Forever Foundation. It is the mission of the foundation to provide hope, support and financial assistance in Finley's memory to families and children affected by pediatric cancer. Through fundraisers, the annual Finley Fest, private donations and a number of other charitable activities, the Finley Forever Foundation provides families with pop-up tents that allow children to feel "invisible" in their hospital rooms, a stark difference from their day-to-day experience. Donations also include clothes, toys, cleaning essetials, Amazon Fire Sticks and everything else a child might need during their stem cell isolation.

"Finley was gifted a tent for her stem cell by another family in the unit. It was her space to be invisible, where she could disappear for a little while and the hospital wasn't there anymore," said Dan. "Every year there are 50 stem cell transplants at Lurie. Our goal in starting the foundation was to give every kid a tent and a bag to provide them with everything they would need."

Since launching the Finley Forever Foundation, the Bracken family has raised \$90,000, donated more than \$12,000, and gifted 50 tents and gift bags to affected familes. For those interested in donating or to learn more about the Finley Forever Foundation, visit www.finleyforever.com.

Flossmoor Power Couple Takes on the "Sharks"

Husband and wife entrepreneurs Keithan and Quiante Hedrick of Flossmoor experienced their 15-minutes of fame this January when the couple was featured on ABC's *Shark Tank* with their celebrity-driven website, Candi.

The couple proudly presented Candi, which allows fans to video chat with their favorite celebrities and influencers, to the "Sharks" Mark Cuban, Lori Greiner, Barbara Corcoran, Kevin O'Leary and guest "Shark" Kevin Hart. Despite their

best efforts and strong enthusiasm for Candi, Keithan and Quiante were unable to secure a deal with a "Shark." But, that hasn't slowed them down.

In fact, since the episode of *Shark Tank* aired on January 7, Candi has more than doubled its number of bookings, grown its investment interest, increased its number of users, and increased the number of featured celebrities.

According to Keithan, anywhere from 20,000 to 30,000 businesses pitch their products and ideas to *Shark*

Tank producers and only 150 are selected to actually pitch to the "Sharks." From there, only a handful of those pitches are aired on the show. Because their episode aired, Keithan equated that to an eight-minute commercial airing on national, prime-time television to an audience of as many as 4 million people.

Visit www.meetcandi.com to learn more about the product and to get started chatting with dozens of your favorite celebrities, influencers, entrepreneurs, and more!

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

In celebration and honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, this year the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission wanted to take service to the next level. Partnering with national nonprofit organization Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the CRC, along with the Flossmoor Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, and more than 60 volunteers constructed and donated 10 twin beds to children in need. The all-day service project brought together people of all ages, ethnicities, backgrounds and skill level to build beds, celebrate community and provide much-needed service to local families.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national nonprofit organization that recruits partners and local volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch beds to children and families in need. Sleep in Heavenly Peace believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional and mental support that a child needs and has taken that mission from the organization's local neighborhood to opening chapters all across the nation.

In addition to construction, local partners, residents and organizations purchased 20 bedding sets to dress the beds, donating the remaining 10 to Sleep in Heavenly



Mayor Michelle Nelson, joined by SHP's Dave King and Flossmoor Commissioners Jamie O'Shea (left) and Jackie Riffice (right), stamps a brand-new bed with the SHP logo.

Peace's ongoing efforts.

Thanks to the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission's initiative to sponsor the event, and the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department Corporation, which donated \$2,000 for building materials, Sleep in Heavenly Peace will continue to be a valued partner during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service for years to come.

Assistant Village Manager Hired in Flossmoor



Jonathan Bogue

Assistant Village Manager. Prior to joining the Village of Flossmoor, Bogue served the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois since 2019.

"The Assistant Village Manager position in Flossmoor is structured to not only work with residents on community engagement initiatives and oversee communications but also fulfills a number of internal responsibilities for the Village, like personnel policy management and risk management. Out of nearly 50 highly-qualified

Following an extensive, nationwide search, the Village of Flossmoor named Jonathan Bogue as

candidates, Jonathan rose to the top for a number of reasons including his relevant experience, project management skills, and his tenacity and dedication to public service," said Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager. "We're thrilled to have Jonathan join the Village and know that his skills and breadth of knowledge for municipal operations will serve our residents well."

As the Assistant to the Village Manager in Lincolnwood, Bogue coordinated all benefits for Village employees, served on the negotiations teams for the Village's Teamsters Local 700 contract, served as a liaison to the Environmental Commission, developed the Village's personnel policy manual, and more. As Lincolnwood's Management Analyst, a position he held prior to Assistant to the Village Manager,

Bogue assisted with the Village's budget process, risk management and human resources. Bogue holds a Master of Public Administration and Policy from Northwestern University, as well as a Master of Music Education from Michigan State University. Prior to public administration, Bogue enjoyed a nearly 10 year career in music education.

"I grew up in the south suburbs and have long admired Flossmoor, from its highly rated schools to its vibrant art scene. I was attracted to the opportunity to serve a diverse community and be part of a skilled leadership team," said Bogue. "I look forward to getting to know the community and being part of an inclusive environment that promotes interaction amongst residents and celebrates traditions and differences."

NEWS TO USE!

Flossmoor Urban Forestry News

The Village of Flossmoor maintains a parkway tree inventory to help assist with the management of Village parkway trees. The inventory allows the Village to manage public safety, identify tree species composition, prioritize tree work, create reforestation plans and monitor tree health. Recently, the Village upgraded its inventory system to a Geographic Information System (GIS). The new GIS system can inventory trees with high accuracy and create detailed maps of Village trees.

Tree inventory information is updated regularly to include condition reports, size of trees and detailed location. Tree pruning and removal plans are developed using this information. In addition, the GIS inventory helps maintain records of past tree work. Maintaining records of past tree work helps determine trends in Flossmoor's urban forest. This valuable information is used to develop future work plans and determine the resources required to provide exceptional forestry management.

The Village of Flossmoor, Flossmoor Green Commission and volunteers planted approximately 125 trees on parkways in 2021. The Flossmoor tree inventory program significantly helped in the selection of the parkway trees. Trees planted in 2021 included ironwood, bitternut hickory, pecan, catalpa, cucumber tree magnolia, bur oak, bald cypress, sweet gum and paw paw. The inventory will be evaluated to ensure the Village is selecting trees that are less common and will thrive on parkway locations.

Build Safely this Spring

Are you planning any building or renovation projects this spring? Make sure you're properly vetting your contractors and getting all the appropriate permits needed for spring construction. A complete list of permits can be found at www.flossmoor.org or by visiting the Building Department at Flossmoor Village Hall, but the most common residential permits include interior remodels, new construction (interior or exterior), roof replacement or repair greater than 100-square feet, and fencing, among others. While the majority of contractors will request the homeowner obtain the permit themselves, some will add the permit cost to the project total. Most renovation projects will require some type of permitting, so be wary of any contractor who says a permit is unnecessary.

The best way to ensure you're working with a reputable contractor is to do your homework. That homework should include pricing out building materials and hardware and requesting a minimum of three cost estimates from local contractors, among other things. One aspect of requesting cost estimates to keep in mind when evaluating your selections is the lowest cost doesn't equate the best option. It is also important that homeowners are diligent in requesting references and then asking very specific and direct questions when following up with those references. If possible, ask to see completed work. A quality contractor should perform to their highest ability no matter the project, and keep in mind, too, that busy contractors tend to be busy for a reason.



Introducing Text My Gov

Text My Gov is a new reporting platform that uses your mobile phone's regular messaging service to quickly report issues and find information on the go. No downloads necessary! Using smart texting technology, Text My Gov searches dozens of keywords to provide assistance anytime, day or night. Simply text "Hi" to (708) 249-3224 to get started. From there, enter any of the featured keywords to report your issue and find answers. Featured keywords include: potholes, tree trimming, bill pay, animal license, jobs, office hours and more. Your text report can also include a picture, description and other info. The more detailed the report, the quicker the issue can be addressed.

You can also sign-up to receive Village alerts via text message. Learn about Village events, stay up-to-date on current Village policies, or be alerted to any emergency, weather or community related information. Text "FLOSSMOOR" to 91896 to opt in for alerts. You will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply "YES" to verify. You will receive up to four text messages a month with a notification for each alert category selection. Text "STOP" anytime to remove yourself from the notification list. Save yourself a phone call and get answers to your questions quickly when you Text My Gov! Visit www.flossmoor.org to learn more.

Free Brush Collection

Beginning in April, the Village will offer its FREE brush collection service every first full week of the month from April through October. The program is only available to single-family residential dwellings and is intended to provide an easy and convenient way for residents to dispose of tree branches from their property. Residents are invited to put branches out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on Monday of their scheduled week. Collection will take place the first week of each month during regular hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Guidelines for the program can be found at www.flossmoor.org. For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at (708) 957-4100.

Collection Schedule

- April 4 – April 8
- May 2 – May 6
- June 6 – June 10
- July 4 – July 8
- Aug. 1 – Aug. 5
- Sept 5 – Sept 9
- Oct. 3 – Oct. 7



Flood Insurance

Prepare your home and your wallet for flood season by purchasing flood insurance. If you're not prepared ahead of time, flood season may sneak up on you, and a sneaky flood is a dangerous situation, so get signed up for flood insurance today. Unfortunately, most homeowner's and renter's insurance policies do not cover flood losses, but because the Village of Flossmoor participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can protect your home and property by purchasing a flood insurance policy. Flood insurance should be purchased sooner rather than later, as there is a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective. Flood insurance plans can be purchased through any licensed insurance agent, so contact your local agent today to see if you qualify for flood insurance.

Why Purchase Flood Insurance

- Flood insurance claims are paid even if a disaster is not declared by the President.
- More than 20 percent of NFIP claims come from outside of mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas. There is no payback requirement.
- Flood insurance policies are continuous and are not nonrenewed or canceled for repeat losses.
- Flood insurance reimburses you for all covered building losses up to \$250,000 for residential occupancies and up to \$500,000 for businesses. Contents coverage is also available up to \$100,000 for residential and up to \$500,000 for businesses.
- The average cost of a flood insurance policy is about \$600 annually. The cost of a preferred risk policy is less than \$200 annually, if you live in a low to moderate risk area.

Vehicle Sticker and Animal Tags

Vehicle stickers must be purchased and displayed by Friday, April 15. For all vehicles registered to a Flossmoor address, including leased vehicles, company cars and vehicles kept outside of the Village, you are required to purchase and display a current Flossmoor vehicle sticker in the lower right-hand corner of the front windshield. Residents may purchase vehicle stickers in a variety of ways. Please make checks payable to the Village of Flossmoor.

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

Animal tags for your dogs and cats must also be purchased by April 15, 2022. Applications are included with the vehicle sticker renewal form sent to all households. Flossmoor Village Hall will remain open until 6 p.m. on Friday, April 15. Please visit www.flossmoor.org for more information.

school spotlight

Mr. Clinton Alexander, HF High School's Newest Viking



Incoming Principal Clinton Alexander (front row, center) is joined by his fellow administrative team at Homewood-Flossmoor High School and the HF High School Board of Education. Photo courtesy of Marilyn Thomas, HF Chronicle.

Stepping into a leadership role at Homewood-Flossmoor High School is an imposing, yet distinguished venture, and incoming principal Clinton Alexander is ready to take the reins and continue to push the award-winning high school to new heights.

“The name HF speaks for itself so this is a really exciting experience,” said Principal Alexander. “The first thing I have to do as principal is to align my goals with the superintendent’s goals. We’re going to be very methodical when we do that to ensure we are aligned with the standards we have set for our HF community, to help the students flourish.”

Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School District 233 Board of Education appointed Alexander in December 2021, but he will not officially take on the role until July 1, 2022. Alexander is currently serving as principal at Hillcrest High School in Country Club Hills, a position he accepted in July 2020. Prior to being named principal at Hillcrest High School, Alexander served as the associate principal of Curriculum and Instruction at Rich East High School, then as the associate principal of Operations at Rich South High School.

Though he’s only served as principal for one full school year, Alexander’s experience navigating the academic year during the COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges

that required unique solutions. Alexander implored his team to creatively nurture social and emotional learning, while also establishing high academic standards. His efforts were so successful, that Hillcrest High School is currently performing at its highest academic level in the school’s history and the administration just celebrated the school’s highest first semester passing rate ever.

“By getting my first experience during the pandemic, it naturally showed me how to jump into the game with two feet because there was very little time to prep,” said Alexander. “It forced me to be very adaptive and very responsive and really taught me that connection and relationships matter. With anxiety being so high, as we became more literate about what was happening, we had to keep each other encouraged and that brought about really good energy between admin and faculty.”

Alexander intends to continue his focus on establishing relationships with faculty as well as community partners when he arrives at HF High School. To him, HF High School’s outstanding reputation is a combination of the commitment to excellence by administrators and faculty, as well as the unwavering support of the community and community stakeholders. As the parent of an HF High School graduate, Alexander has witnessed that cooperation from the outside. Now, he is looking forward to being a part of the efforts from within the administrative team.

“What really makes it momentous for me is that I have been connected to Homewood Flossmoor High School for years,” said Alexander. “From the lens of a parent I had high expectations of HF High School. Now, I can uphold those same expectations within my administration.”

Alexander earned his B.A. in Communications at Eastern Illinois University, where he was a two-sport athlete (football and track) with a full scholarship for football. He went on to add a second bachelor’s degree in English from Governors State University. Alexander also holds a master’s degree in Education and principal licensure from Concordia University, and is currently pursuing his doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at National Louis University.

According to a press release distributed by Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Alexander is a second-generation educator from the south suburbs, and his focus is on advocating for student achievement and ensuring that all students have equitable learning experiences.

business spotlight

Flossmoor Runs on Dunkin'



Chandra and Krupa Shah, center, are joined by their employees to celebrate the grand-opening of Dunkin' at 3608 Vollmer Road.

After more than three years battling the elements, facing shipping and fulfillment delays, and plenty of frustration, Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin Robbins is finally open and proud to call Flossmoor home.

Multi-unit franchisees and husband and wife team, Shalish and Chandra Shah began their American dream more than 20 years ago when Shalish established his first Dunkin' Donuts store in Richton Park.

"When my husband moved to the United States, his first job was cleaning tables at Dunkin' Donuts," said Chandra. "As soon as he got into Dunkin' he made it his dream to open his own. Now, we have grown from one location to nine. Truly the all-American dream."

Now, the Shah family is passing on their legacy, and specifically, the brand-new store in Flossmoor, to the second generation, their daughter Krupa. While it will still be a family affair, Krupa will oversee the operations of the Flossmoor location as well as the company's eight other regional locations.

Not only is Krupa the next generation owner of the Shah family Dunkin' franchise, the new Flossmoor location is also the "next generation" of Dunkin'.

With an open floor plan, sleek, modern colors and materials, community dining spaces and eye-catching

design elements, the next gen Dunkin' in Flossmoor is the first of its kind in the region. One of Krupa's favorite elements of the new concept is the introduction of a cutting-edge tap system that features nitro cold brew right on tap.

The next gen Dunkin' also prioritizes innovative technologies, including optimizing mobile ordering and a drive-thru system exclusively for mobile ordering. Guests will also notice when they arrive at Dunkin' at 3608 Vollmer Road, a front-facing bakery case filled with decadent and colorful baked goods.

One thing that will never change in the Shah Dunkin' franchise; it's emphasis on community. Since the beginning, Chandra and Shalish have always prioritized their businesses' connection with the local community, from hosting ice cream socials, sponsoring sports teams or partnering with local schools. Krupa intends to continue that legacy at Dunkin' in Flossmoor and looks forward to the number of ways the company can support the community.

"Being part of the community is important to us. That's the fun part of the business," said Krupa. "There is a great community feel here, and the Village has been very helpful and easy to work with. People here are just nice, so we're very excited to finally being open."

department updates

Behind the Badge: Meet the Flossmoor Police Department



Eddie Sailsbery

and they deserved to be highlighted as such.

Starting off this series is Officer Eddie Sailsbery, a hard-

The Flossmoor Police Department is comprised of highly dedicated men and women who are committed to a life of service and protection. But, when the uniform comes off, they are people with interesting stories, hobbies and passions. The people who make up the Flossmoor Police Department are more than their profession,

working family man and a 25-year law-enforcement veteran. As a young high school student, Sailsbery joined a police cadet program and, like many of his fellow officers and law enforcement officials before him, it inspired him to learn more and eventually, dedicate his career to law enforcement. When he's able to enjoy some down time away from his duties, Sailsbery enjoys spending quality time with his family and cooking up steaks and shrimp on the grill. Sailsbery also has a passion for model railroading and hopes to one day build a "massive" train layout during his well-earned retirement.

If you see Officer Sailsbery in the community be sure to say hello!

Spring and Summer Road Construction

Construction projects will be difficult to avoid this spring and summer, but the end result will be worth it as the Village of Flossmoor addresses some major street rehabilitation projects. Among the largest projects scheduled for 2022 are the Berry Lane Drainage Improvements and the Street Pavement Rehabilitation Program.

Berry Lane Drainage Improvements

The Village is currently working with the Army Corps of Engineers on a large-scale drainage project in the north end of the Heather Hill neighborhood on Berry Lane, Bob-o-Link Road and Maryland Avenue, to provide flood mitigation relief to the area. The project includes the installation of a large storm sewer in the roadway and permeable street pavers on Berry Lane with stormwater storage in the aggregate subbase. The Army Corps of Engineers is managing the construction of the project, which has a total estimated cost of \$2,915,724. The Village successfully secured more than \$2 million in grants for the project from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Construction on the Berry Lane drainage improvements is anticipated to start in April of 2022 and will last through the fall.

Street Pavement Rehabilitation Program

The Village is working with Milhouse Engineering on the community-wide street rehabilitation program that will be completed during the upcoming construction season. This program will include street resurfacing, patching, and curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs. The project plans are being finalized and will be released to bid in the coming weeks. Construction is anticipated to start in April of 2022 and last until the fall. Visit www.flossmoor.org to view the recommended street rehab list and to stay up-to-date with ongoing construction projects.

Fire Safety Checklist

Is your family prepared in the event of a fire? Not sure what type of safety equipment you should have in your home? The Flossmoor Fire Department has a few quick tips and a fire safety checklist that can help you protect your household.

- **Don't own a fire extinguisher?** Most home improvement stores have an assortment of options in stock. Always check the expiration date, and keep the extinguisher in a safe, convenient place like a broom closet or cabinet.
- **Looking for LED bulbs?** LED bulbs may be slightly more expensive, but the initial price tag doesn't reflect how much you'll save on energy costs and how much you'll improve your fire safety.
- **Putting together a first aid kit?** Start with the basics: adhesive strips, bandages and cold packs should be available at any local drugstore. You may have to go online or visit a specialty outlet to find a quality fire blanket or burn cream. Keep the kit in your bathroom, and feel free to customize it according to your household. Depending on your health and interests, aloe gel may be more useful than a set of tweezers — or vice versa.

commission corner

Sculpture Relocations

Some changes are coming to the Flossmoor Public Art Sculpture Collection to allow for greater viewing and renewed enthusiasm for the world-class collection.

Not only are new pieces coming to the Village, but the Flossmoor Public Art Commission will be relocating different sculptures to new locations to give residents a new piece of public art to enjoy.

Unfortunately, as we welcome new sculptures to the Village, we also have to say goodbye to some. One of the departing pieces this spring, is Commission favorite, “Coming Together” by Bruce Neimi. While the Commission is saddened to see this stunning piece leave its prime location on Sterling Avenue, near BMO Harris Bank, it opens the location for something fresh and new. Keep an eye out for what’s coming soon!

If you want to help support the Commission and the ongoing maintenance of Flossmoor’s public art you can purchase a brick or bench and dedicate it to someone you love, add a monthly gift to your Village water bill, or make a direct donation to the Flossmoor Public Art Commission. Visit www.artflossmoor.com to learn more about how to get involved.



Black History Month Celebration

In celebration of Black History Month this year, the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission spent the month of February honoring Flossmoor’s Black military veterans. We were fortunate to feature a number of military veterans who shared their remarkable stories, detailed their years of combat, their experiences when they returned to civilian life, and the relationships they built while serving their country. For those who may not know, Flossmoor is home to a number of Black military veterans and while we were able to recognize these specific individuals, we want to share our appreciation for every man and woman who served their country in the same regard. This opportunity allowed us all to gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices our veterans have made to our country, and we are fortunate to be able to hear and share the incredible stories of their exceptional lives.

Each profile in the series can still be found at www.flossmoor.org.

The veterans who were featured for Black History Month include:

- United States Air Force and Vietnam War Veteran Leonard Harris
- United States Army and Combat Veteran LaTreece Robinson
- United States Navy Veteran and Flossmoor Police Commander Keith Taylor
- United States Marine Corps Veteran and Prisoner of War Ronald Alston
- United States Navy Veteran and Command Master Chief Kevin Dorsey
- United States Army Veteran Ret. Command Sergeant Major Zarrod Beck
- United States Air Force Veteran Staff Sergeant Phillip Varnado
- United States Army Veteran William Mustafa, PsyD
- United States Air Force Veteran Creon Dorsey
- United States Army Veteran Calvin Young
- United States Army Veteran Robert Benjamin

HF Recycling Guide

As you prepare for your spring-cleaning projects, keep in mind that everyday household items, materials and not-so-common items can be recycled right here in the area. Come across outdated DVDs, CDs and other media or old, unbroken eyeglasses? Donate them directly to the Flossmoor Public Library. Do you have expired or broken smoke detectors or old medications? Bring both to Flossmoor Village Hall. Cleaning out the garage and find worn down tires or broken car batteries? Firestone on Halsted in Homewood will accept them. It’s easy being green in Flossmoor thanks to the Flossmoor Green Commission! Visit our “Green Resources” at www.flossmoor.org to see all the ways you can commit to being green in your home and to find the HF Recycling Guide.



Village of Flossmoor

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Michelle Nelson

Hello friends and neighbors! Spring is nearly here which means warm weather is on the horizon. I love seeing people out gardening and enjoying our local golf courses and parks, and I especially love the return of youth sports. Springtime is also budget season here in the Village of Flossmoor. Budget

season is an important time for Flossmoor. It is when we identify the Village's largest needs, including infrastructure, technology, emergency services and more. Village infrastructure is among the top priorities for the 2023 Village budget. The Board of Trustees and I have worked with staff to identify the Village's major infrastructure projects including ongoing work on the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Project, Street Pavement Rehabilitation Program, Central Business District Improvements, and the Local Road Safety Plan.

The Board and I are also placing additional priority on economic development, specifically targeting commercial ventures for Village-owned properties on Flossmoor Road and the area around Meijer known as Southwest Flossmoor. Dunkin' celebrated its official grand opening in February,

giving us an additional anchor business which should attract more commercial interest to the area. Let's show our businesses that they can count on Flossmoor's support and patronage by shopping local!

As we welcome the warmth of spring, that also means melting snow, which uncovers brown, muddy grass and litter that has accumulated during the winter months. While our Flossmoor Public Works does an amazing job beautifying Flossmoor with flowers, tree plantings, street cleanings, and more, the Village Board and I invite you to join us in a community clean-up on Saturday, April 2, sponsored by the Southland Green Commission. If you can't join us on April 2, then do what I do and pull in a few friends for a walk and pick up trash around your neighborhood! Both are great ways to gather with friends and neighbors and help Flossmoor look beautiful this spring.

Another exciting spring event is the return of the Flossmoor Baseball and Softball opening day parade on April 23. Watching the kids proudly represent their teams with banners, jerseys, caps and flags, while they march along Flossmoor Road is one of my favorite events of the year! Join me and the community in celebrating these young athletes and the start of the spring season.

Many of us haven't talked with our neighbors over the winter months. Block parties are a great way to promote safety, build support systems, form friendships with new neighbors, and reconnect with old friends during warmer weather months. Our Village website hosts a terrific step-by-step guide for planning and hosting a block party event. Host your own block party, and I'll stop by with dessert.

These fantastic events are just the start to a number of wonderful ways to gather as a community this spring. I look forward to seeing you and your family out and about!