

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Winter 2022
Volume 32 / Number 3



THE RUNNING GIRLS

Back row: Julie Schmidt, Debbie Knot, Lara Elfner, Kelly Goldberg, Betsy Cutrara. Front row: Pegge O'Donnell, Katie Larocca, Ann Mitchell, Marcia Kuchta, Michelle Nelson and Beth Larocca (not pictured) all make up the Running Girls running group, most of whom have run together for 20 years.

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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 Monday 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 26

Small Business Saturday — All Day / Village-wide. Show your support for Flossmoor's small businesses by shopping local and make a dent in your holiday shopping during Small Business Saturday! Hosted by the Flossmoor Business Association in partnership with the Village of Flossmoor.

November 26

Holiday Tree Lighting — 3 to 5:30 p.m. / Flossmoor Library & Flossmoor Park. Visit Santa, enjoy some hot cocoa on the Flossmoor Library lawn, then join Santa as he parades through Downtown Flossmoor to Flossmoor Park for the annual holiday tree lighting.

December 3

Gingerbread House Tours — 3 to 6 p.m. / 1424 Braeburn Avenue. Don't miss Janet Gustafson's annual gingerbread village tour. Tours are open to all and free of charge, but registration is required.

December 10

Christmas Music Show with Nanny Nikki — 11 a.m. / Flossmoor Public Library. Enjoy the musical stylings of Nanny Nikki during her Christmas Music Show featuring classic Christmas songs and a special treat!

December 15

Holiday Lights Parade — 4:30 to 6 p.m. / Take in the sights and sounds of the Holiday Lights 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 26

Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Day.

December 18-26

Nightly lighting of the Menorah in honor of the eight days of Hanukkah.

December 26-January 1, 2023

Nightly lighting of the Kinara in honor of the seven days of Kwanzaa.

December 30

Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Eve

January 2, 2023

Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day

January 14, 2023

Sleep in Heavenly Peace – 8 a.m. to Noon / Flossmoor Public Works

January 16, 2023

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



RUNNING INTO 20 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

Over the course of two decades, a lot can change. Looking back to 2002, smartphones didn't exist, parking lots didn't feature electric car charging stations, and photos were still being developed from film rolls. But, one thing has never changed for the Running Girls running group: their dedication and support for one another.

When Betsy Cutrara and Julie Schmidt connected on the playground of their children's preschool, they bonded over their young children and their love of running. The two started running together in 2002, meeting in the morning three times a week at Park Place in Flossmoor Park, but it wasn't just the duo for long. As the years progressed, more and more women joined the Running Girls, or the RGs as Cutrara affectionately calls them, and now all 11 women have committed to more than just 20 years of running the streets of Flossmoor. They've committed to 20 years of friendship, too.

"This group of ladies is much more than a running group," said Ann Mitchell, a longtime member of the RGs. "It is an incredible friendship, even beyond a sisterhood. I would do anything for any of these women, and I know that they all feel exactly the same way. It's an amazing kinship to know that you always have a herd standing proud behind you and ready to help you out physically or emotionally at any time."

Not only does the RGs running group support one another on every level, but their connection extends to the larger Flossmoor community. Despite living in Flossmoor for more than 20 years, not all of the group's members are originally from the area. Cutrara recalled when she and her husband Sam moved to the area how much she missed the connection of her five sisters and felt compelled to find a new sort of family in the community she now called home. It has been through the RGs that she has found that sisterhood and a deep-seated fondness for Flossmoor.

"When I moved out here, I didn't have that support system that I had with my sisters and that can be hard," said Cutrara. "My experience in Flossmoor is this group. We're happier and healthier when we have our people. Everyone needs to find their people, and I'm grateful to have found mine. Plus, running is way cheaper than a therapist!"

Their shared fondness for Flossmoor is often reflected in their service work in the community. Over the course of the last 20 years, the group members have volunteered with a number of charitable organizations, including the Cancer Support Center, South Suburban PADS, Center for Food Equity in Medicine, Respond Now, as well as with local churches and their children's schools. While that connection to the community strengthened through service, their commitment to one another has always remained the highest priority for the group.

Throughout the last 20 years, the RGs have supported one another through happiness and grief, the loss of loved ones and the births of new children, — collectively the group has 36 children and eight grandchildren — competed in marathons and together have run more than 10,000 miles, an equivalent, Mitchell proudly asserts, to running across the country three times.

While running remains a priority for the group, which still meets three times a week, because, as Cutrara enthuses, the health benefits and the camaraderie are a "win, win," it has grown to so much more. From book clubs to family dinner parties to surprise COVID Happy Birthday singalongs and summer Mondays golfing in the H-F Park District Women's Golf League, the RGs have cemented their lifelong friendships in more than just their dedication brick in the traffic circle in Downtown Flossmoor.

Are you a part of a Flossmoor-based community group? Contact the Village of Flossmoor and we may feature your group in an upcoming newsletter!

flossmoor faces & places

Service Strives in Flossmoor



Flossmoor Service League: Michelle Bruggeman, Julie Lawton, Janine Mlynarcik, Eugenia Pauling, Sugar Al-Amin, Susan Gasbarra, Suzy Moore, Joyce Riordan, Stephanie Mullin, Julie Fordon, Jane Baffes, Kim Fairman, Ann Mitchell, Julie Smith and Tammy Ciambone represent the wide array of volunteers in the Flossmoor Service League.

Since 1955 the Flossmoor Service League has dedicated itself to serving the people of Flossmoor and the surrounding communities. So, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the organization suffered a loss in membership, Flossmoor Service League reignited its recruitment efforts and surged forward. After hosting two successful recruiting events this year, the Flossmoor Service League is now 11 members larger, renewed with enthusiasm and vigor, and charging full steam ahead.

“We were fortunate to recruit a lovely, talented, passionate and enthusiastic group of women,” said Ann Mitchell, Flossmoor Service League President. “This group is a great

representation of the communities that we serve.”

The group reinvigorated not only its membership initiatives but also its activities of service, redefining its annual holiday fundraising efforts. For the past three years, the Flossmoor Service League has sold luminaries to raise funds for its service efforts and to illuminate the holiday season. This year the initiative is more community-based.

Partnering with the Flossmoor Business Association, Flossmoor Service League has expanded its annual luminaire sales to include sponsorship opportunities for decorating Flossmoor Park. During the December 1 Flossmoor Business Association Holiday Open House, Flossmoor Service League will sell 10-piece luminary sets to help celebrate the season in Flossmoor. Interested participants are able to purchase individual sets of 10 luminaries, at \$25 a set, for their own personal use, or sponsor a set of 10 that will be placed along the path at Flossmoor Park on the evening of December 1.

All proceeds from Flossmoor Service League’s annual fundraisers go to supporting grants that are awarded to local charities in need, like Respond Now, the Cancer Support Center, PADs, the Jones Center and other area non-profit organizations. Last year alone, the Flossmoor Service League raised \$38,000 and supported 16 charities through its grant program.

Those interested in supporting the Flossmoor Service League can donate at www.flossmoorserviceleague.org or attend the annual Candlelight Ball in December or Spring Housewalk in May.

Building Beds for Better Futures

A steady set of two-by-fours, a headboard and a footboard, all stained in an organic combination of vinegar and steel wool, is all it takes to make an impact on a child’s life. That’s what the volunteers who participate in Sleep in Heavenly Peace have learned.

That is also why, for the second year in a row, the Village of Flossmoor has committed to hosting an exclusive bed-building event on Saturday, January 14, 2023, as part of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The project aims to benefit children all across the southland. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has become an important

partner to Flossmoor’s Community Relations Commission, and thanks to the dozens of dedicated volunteers who committed to the 2022 project, Flossmoor has become an important partner to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

“It was such a successful event planned by the Community Relations Commission that we wanted to make this a hallmark contribution to Martin Luther King Jr. Day of service,” said Jackie Riffice, one of nine Community Relations Commissioners.

During last year’s event, volunteers crafted 10 twin beds that were outfitted with comforter sets provided

by numerous donors throughout the community. This year, volunteers will double their efforts to build 20 beds. The Village is seeking a total of 60 volunteers to help build the 20 beds. Additionally, the Community Relations Commission will be hosting a bedding drive with an accompanying Amazon Wish List to dress each twin bed. Those unavailable to participate in building the beds can still get involved by donating a bedding set. Volunteers can also sign-up for a future bed delivery.

For those interested in volunteering, sign-up is available at www.flossmoor.org.

Plant the Gem A Resounding Success



Players on the Homewood-Flossmoor High School soccer team volunteered their time to Plant the Gem resulting in 300 new trees planted across Flossmoor.

Arriving at Leavitt Park on the morning of October 15, volunteers chatted excitedly about the day's prospects, enamored by the plethora of vibrant young trees waiting to join Flossmoor's robust urban forest. That same scene played out at locations across Flossmoor as more than 250 volunteers staked claim on their planting zones and enthusiastically dug into Plant the Gem.

Despite knowing the day would be memorable and essentially place Flossmoor in the record books for the largest single-day tree planting, it still amazed organizers to feel the buzz of excitement across the Village upon the arrival of Plant the Gem. Even Trinity Pierce, Stewardship Manager with Chicago Region Trees Initiative, who has participated in thousands of tree plantings across the Chicagoland region, came away from the day impressed by Flossmoor's enthusiasm.

"There was no doubt about the strong volunteer spirit in Flossmoor and they turned out in droves," said Pierce. "This is the largest hands-on, single-day planting we've ever participated in and Flossmoor certainly came out to represent and take ownership in planting and caring for the trees moving forward."

Thanks to prep work by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District and a few local landscape professionals, more than 300 holes were pre-augured prior to the start of Plant the Gem, which meant people of all physical abilities could volunteer their time and efforts.

Volunteers of all kinds took part in the day, with some as young as seven and some older than 70, as part of families or groups, where others saw it as an opportunity to give back to the community. No matter the reason for their volunteer efforts, seeing people from all over Flossmoor come together for a shared goal was an inspiring sight for Mayor Michelle Nelson and something she will not soon forget.

"The day exceeded my expectations. We had fun working together and it was heart-warming seeing so many organizations represented at the event. Part of the excitement for me was seeing everyone's love turn into action," said Nelson. "Plant the Gem was a multi-generational event. I saw grandparents working with their grandchildren, teaching them to care for our environment and community. These are important lessons that I hope will continue to be passed down from generation to generation."

NEWS TO USE!



Help Us Keep Our Hydrants Clear

In an emergency, every second counts, so when the Flossmoor Fire Department is tasked with clearing snow away from fire hydrants, precious time is lost. This winter, please lend a helping hand to keep our hydrants clear so that our Flossmoor Fire Department can access necessary, life-saving measures as quickly as possible.

Why it matters

Fire trucks carry a limited amount of water, so one of the first tasks upon arriving at a fire is to locate a water supply from the nearest hydrant. Fire hydrants that are blocked, concealed or difficult to access due to snow or ice impede emergency fire response. Hydrants covered in snow can also be difficult to locate, and uncovering them can waste valuable time needed during firefighting operations. Keeping them clear can mean easier access to water and more time doing what really matters, fighting the fire.

How to keep fire hydrants clear

In addition to removing snow and debris covering the hydrant itself, the Flossmoor Fire Department recommends clearing a three-foot area around the hydrant for easier access. The Flossmoor Fire Department also suggests maintaining a shoveled path from the street, sidewalk or driveway to the fire hydrant so that it is visible from the road and firefighters can easily access it. Consider helping elderly friends, neighbors or those with medical conditions to keep their fire hydrants clear, too.

Snow Removal Tips from DPW

To make winter easier on everyone this year, the Flossmoor Department of Public Works wants to provide Flossmoor residents with some helpful tips, suggestions and reminders to make snow removal efforts as timely, efficient and safe as possible.

- Do not allow children to play on or around the street during a storm or afterwards. Visibility is often limited during snow-plowing efforts. In addition, sledding areas and toys should be kept far away from the street.
- Do not attempt to get the attention of snow plow operators, even while they are stopped, as weather conditions could still make it difficult for them to see you.
- If possible, shovel driveway aprons only after roadways are completely cleared. This will eliminate the need to shovel more than once.
- Do not push snow into or across the street. This not only creates an additional hazard, but also may result in the same snow being deposited in your neighbor's driveway.
- In order to make pedestrian travel safer and easier, clear snow and ice from the walks adjacent to your property.
- Maintain and repair mailboxes and posts. Check your mailbox to make sure it is secured properly to the post and does not extend past the face of the curb.

Parking Safety Reminders for 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.

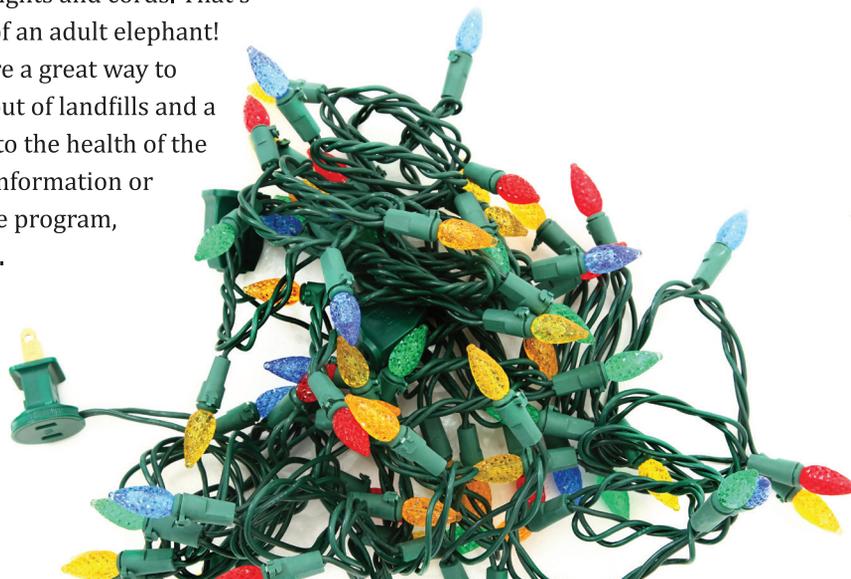
Don't Trash Your Tree, Mulch It

Did you know that evergreen trees are biodegradable? That means they can be easily reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes, like padding the trails at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center. Instead of leaving your tree on the curbside, which is then placed in a landfill, wasting valuable space, give it back to nature this season.

Drop off your tree to Irons Oaks at the Vollmer Road parking lot anytime between December 26 and January 18, 2023 to be recycled and reused. Please do not bring yard waste to the tree collection site. Trees should be stacked neatly, with the trunks pointed toward the parking lot. Trees will not be accepted after January 18.

Irons Oaks and the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District are also supporting holiday light and extension cord recycling for its 11th year with collection sites all across Homewood and Flossmoor. If your lights have lost their twinkle, drop them off anytime between November 26 and January 18 at any of the following locations: the HF Racquet and Fitness Center, Marie Irwin Center, Goldberg Administration Center, Sgt. Means Park and Irons Oaks.

Since beginning both recycling programs, Irons Oaks has collected a total of 7,500 trees and 13,673 pounds of lights and cords. That's more than the weight of an adult elephant! These two programs are a great way to keep unwanted items out of landfills and a great way to give back to the health of the community. For more information or questions regarding the program, visit www.hfparks.com.



Holiday Shopping Tips

Parking Lots

- Park near parking lot lights
- Back into spaces when possible
- Write down or store your parking lot location in your phone
- Use the panic button on key FOB to help locate your car or to draw attention
- Don't unlock your car until you are within a few feet
- Stow packages in the trunk or covered on the backseat floor
- Store money and credit cards securely before exiting the store

In Store Shopping

- Do not leave a purse, wallet, phone or small children unattended/open in a cart
- Be aware of distraction tactics used by thieves, like the bump and grab
- Be alert as thefts can happen even when police or security are nearby

At Home/Delivery

- Bring packages in through a closed garage
- Break down boxes (i.e., TVs, computers, anything of value) and place them in cans or bags
- Keep gifts out of sight from windows and close blinds, shades, etc., when no one is home
- Lock doors, windows, garage doors and car doors, day and night
- Schedule deliveries when someone is home to receive them
- Request signature on delivery
- Have mail held at the post office while out of town
- Request to be added to the Flossmoor Police Department house watch list if traveling
- Keep in mind, thieves follow package delivery trucks
- Use Ring doorbell or other surveillance options

school spotlight

From the Airwaves of Homewood-Flossmoor High School

It has not taken educators or parents long to determine that students are still struggling with some lasting social and emotional impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. With the 2022-2023 school year in full swing, it became clear early on that parents were in high demand for new tools that would help them connect and understand the unique challenges their children are currently facing.



Brad Kain and Kevin Coy join John Elfner during a special recording of the HF 101 podcast, a new communications medium for HF High School.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School administrators and educators decided that taking a unique approach to addressing those challenges was the best course of action. So, in the fall of 2022 the school's guidance and communications departments launched *HF 101*, a podcast that dissects the hot topics currently facing today's youth, starting with college and career planning.

"A podcast felt like a novel way to reach out to students and parents, and it felt like the college search was a great place to start," said Jon Elfner, AP History and social sciences teacher at HF High School. "Our goal was to make this as less of a scary process as possible."

Teaming up with HF High School Post-Secondary Counselors Kevin Coy and Brad Kain, Elfner knew there would be a wealth of knowledge to share with eager parents. What it ignited, though, and what first-year Communications Director Carla Erdey sees for its potential, is much larger.

With a vast list of unexplored programs and resources offered to parents by the high school, Erdey knows there are an endless list of resources that parents have yet to embrace. It's

her goal that through the podcast and a number of other new communications initiatives, parents will have all the tools they need to navigate the intricacies of high school and beyond.

"We have great resources here at the school, and a podcast is a great way to share those with parents in a safe, non-threatening way," said Erdey. "They don't have to attend a meeting where there are other parents and there's added

pressure. Instead, they can learn about these resources at their own pace in their own comfort."

The four-part series on college and career planning covers everything from tips to narrowing the college search, getting the most out of a campus tour, the dreaded Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, scholarships and more. In addition to exploring a wide range of topics, the podcast also features a range of guests as well, including parents and students currently going through the process, a representative with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and even some HF alum.

Though the next series topic has yet to be planned, Erdey and Elfner are already busy putting the pieces together to capitalize on the success of the first four episodes. One thing Erdey appreciates most about the podcast is its lifespan and growth potential, with the goal to focus on evergreen topics that can help families anytime.

"Raising teenagers is challenging. Raising teenagers in a post-COVID world is even more challenging," said Erdey. "There are different pressures on kids now that we all need help to navigate, and we want to be that resource. We want to provide our parents with the information they are looking for."

HF 101 is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, SoundCloud and most other podcast platforms, as well as online at www.hfhighschool.org. Each podcast episode is approximately 15 minutes long and is designed to be lighthearted and entertaining while covering stressful topics to ease the minds of parents.

"We've been through it," said Elfner. "You're listening to over 40 years of professional and personal experience. It's going to be ok."

business spotlight



A digital rendering showcases the colorful exterior of the iconic Rainbow Cone, a new business coming soon to Flossmoor.

Ready to try the Rainbow?

Heads up Flossmoor, a new source of contention is headed this way and it might likely add fuel to the sibling-bickering fire. Fortunately for family unity, it offers both sides equally sweet resolutions — a rainbow cone and more. The question is, how many ice creams should one cone hold?

Joining Flossmoor's robust and colorful business community is the highly anticipated Original Rainbow Cone. Accompanying its business partner Buona Beef, the Original Rainbow Cone is only months away from setting up shop near the intersection of Vollmer Road and Crawford Avenue in Flossmoor. Its brightly colored exterior is the perfect addition to the corner of Crawford Avenue, but for 13-year-old Flossmoor resident Bennet Matthys, he may need a little more convincing before he shares in the enthusiasm.

"Nope. Too many flavors together," he says flatly. "Anything more than three flavors is just too many."

Despite Bennet's dismay, his younger sister Eme Mae and Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson are thrilled with Flossmoor's most recent economic development.

"Thumbs up," says Eme Mae with zero hesitation. "I like all the colors of the ice cream. I especially like that there is orange sherbet in there. That's one of my favorite flavors, and you do not often get that in stuff."

Although they may not know it, the Matthys siblings are continuing a tradition almost as old as the Original Rainbow Cone itself, established more than 95 years ago in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. The same five flavors have formed the sliced-not-scooped stack, starting top-down with Eme's favorite, orange sherbet. Next comes pistachio, Palmer

House (a combination of vanilla, cherries and walnuts, strawberry and finally chocolate. After almost a century's firmly rooted presence in Chicago's south

side, third-generation owner Lynn Sapp decided during the COVID-19 pandemic to branch out from area mainstays. Partnering four years ago with Buona Beef allowed the expansion and for more of the Chicagoland to join the great Rainbow debate.

Nelson is familiar with the conversation. Every childhood visit to her grandparent's Beverly home growing up meant a faithful tromp to the Original Rainbow Cone, exactly none of which entailed eating an actual Rainbow cone.

"I was not brave enough to try the rainbow," Nelson said ruefully, adding that a single cup of mint flake was her childhood go-to.

The new Flossmoor space will don the iconic pink with white polka dots and will offer 2,200 square feet of shakes, cakes and of course, ice cream goodness, with plenty of single-flavor options for those hesitant to take the plunge. As for Nelson, she's ready.

"This childhood memory—all of the nostalgia that goes with it," said Nelson, pausing with a laugh. "When they open in Flossmoor, I will try the rainbow."





CELEBRATE THE SEASON FLOSSMOOR STYLE

Magic returns to Downtown Flossmoor on November 26 as Celebrate the Season returns, and the Village is illuminated with all the joys of the holiday season. For the second straight year, the Village of Flossmoor is hosting its month-long celebration starting on November 26 with Small Business Saturday. The celebration starts at 3 p.m. with a visit from Santa for photos and warm hot chocolate and treats on the lawn of the Flossmoor Public Library. After a photo with Santa, spend some time exploring Downtown Flossmoor, which will be adorned with holiday lights and decorations, and enjoy a strolling musical performance from the South Suburban Community Trombone Choir. Take in the festivities of Small Business Saturday with the Flossmoor Business Association (FBA) and don't forget to pick up a special Flossmoor holiday card created by local artist Nico Martinez! Be sure to stop by Flossmoor Park and explore the one-of-a-kind finds at the Park Place Holiday Pop-up shop, as well.

Following the festivities of Small Business Saturday, Santa will parade through Downtown Flossmoor to Flossmoor Park where he will meet members of the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Viking Choir for the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony. After a short performance by the HF Choir, Santa will join Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson at the foot of Flossmoor's holiday tree at 5:30 p.m. to flip the official "on" switch and light up the holiday season.

Returning this year as well is Flossmoor's Winter Bucket List. With activities like, "Flossmoor puzzle swap," "bake a new treat," or "make paper snowflakes" the winter bucket list is filled with fun family activities for the entirety of the winter season.

Celebrate the Season continues from 5 to 7 p.m. on December 1 with the FBA Downtown Flossmoor Holiday Open House, where the FBA will feature special sales, taste tests and a performance from the Bel Canto Community Choir. Janet Gustafson's annual gingerbread village display opens to the public starting on December 3 and will be open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. On December 8, the Flossmoor Commons will host its own Holiday Open House from 5 to 7 p.m.

Bring the whole family out to join Nanny Nikki for a Christmas Music Show at 11 a.m. on December 10 at the Flossmoor Public Library. Kids (and adults) can enjoy singing and dancing along to classic Christmas carols. Flossmoor's newest tradition returns on Thursday, December 15, as the Flossmoor Police, Fire and Public Works Departments take to the streets in decorated vehicles for the Holiday Lights Parade. Set up a lawn chair, lay out a blanket on the lawn, or visit one of two viewing stations at Flossmoor Park and Heather Hill School and watch as the fleet of brightly lit vehicles travel through Flossmoor's various neighborhoods.

Lastly, be sure to join Mayor Michelle Nelson and residents starting at 5 p.m. on December 18 for the daily lighting of the Menorah in celebration of Hanukkah and 5 p.m. on December 26 for the lighting of the Kinara in celebration of Kwanzaa. The annual lighting of the Menorah and Kinara have become special celebrations in Flossmoor and represent the commitment the community places on celebrating people of all cultures. Stay up-to-date on all things Celebrate the Season by following the Village of Flossmoor on Facebook and Instagram, or by visiting www.flossmoor.org.

commission corner

Flossmoor Fest Thank You

The Village of Flossmoor would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our incredible 2022 Flossmoor Fest Sponsors for supporting our annual celebration, each and every year.

Thank you to our Main Stage sponsors:

Aid for Women; Bloom Township Center; Church of St John the Evangelist; Flossmoor Animal Hospital; Flossmoor Station; Kathleen Field Orr and Ottosen, DiNolfo, Hasenbalg, and Castaldo LTD; Kluger Furs; Leland Grove Law, LLC; McDermott Law Group, LLC; Meijer; Rich Township Supervisor Calvin Jordan; Southland Smiles; Will Davis; and Windy City Cannabis.

Thank you to our Entertainment Sponsors:

AT&T; ComEd; Drew C. Mormann State Farm Agency; The Center for Dental Excellence; Bank Financial; Comcast; Flossmoor Quick Mart; Friends of Sugar; Integrity Orthopedics; Dr. Daniel Weber & Edward Joy; Marian Catholic High School; Mayor Michelle Nelson; MLC Properties & Management, Inc.; Percy Scott & Trustee Joni Bradley-Scott; Robin Kelly for Congress; State Representative Anthony DeLuca; and Trustees Jim Mitros & Brian Driscoll.

Thank you to all remaining sponsors:

Anthony and Leilani Shute; Boyd and Janice Jarell; Commissioner Donna Miller; Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl; Country Financial; Daggett Property Inspections, Inc.; Deborah Okleshen, Baird & Warner; Diane Williams; Every Tooth Counts; Flossmoor Family Automotive Repair; Gina LoGalbo and Joe Nordman; Home Instead; Homewood Dental Studio; James B. Wilder; John Flanagan; John Yast; Karen and Perry Hoag; Kevin and Bridget Wachtel; Latman Insurance Group, Inc.; Legacy Strategies; Lou and Marilyn Rose; Monica Gordon Candidate for Cook County Commissioner, 5th District; Sunrise Senior Living of Flossmoor; Bernie and Marcia Heilicser; Dr. Evonne Blakey; Aimee and Michael Matthys; Cork Gaming and Wine Bar; Denise Mandichak; Edward Jones; Jerry and Connie Lambert; Karyn's Kitchen/Karyn's Inner Beauty; Ken and Mary Gehrling; Little Fern Salon; Mary Semik; Sharon Lorsch; and Stanley and LaWanda Harris.

Lastly, thank you to our In-Kind sponsor Homewood Disposal. The Village would also like to extend a thank you to all participating businesses, organizations and community partners for making Flossmoor Fest a special event every year. See you next year!

Join Us for A Day of Service



Volunteers work to make sandwiches for Respond Now on behalf of You Matter 2, Inc. during the 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Heather Hill School in Flossmoor.

Are you a business, non-profit organization, individual or group who wants to be part of the Village of Flossmoor's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service? This year's Day of Service is Monday, January 16, 2023, and the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission invites you to participate. 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 its partners, has participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in honor of Dr. King's legacy. As a community, Flossmoor has hosted dozens of local projects, committed countless hours of service, and expanded the projects to many of the surrounding communities. Best of all, the volunteerism in Flossmoor continues beyond this one single day with a vibrant volunteer force all year round.

Get connected to the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission and sign-up to host a service project on January 16. Service projects are as varied as the agencies that host them. Some examples include park and community property clean up, community food drives, snow removal for seniors, making sandwiches for shelters, donating blood and so much more. Join the Village of Flossmoor and partners in making this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day a day ON, not a day OFF! Let's make the day bigger and better than ever! For more information or to host a service project, contact Program and Event Coordinator Stephanie Wright at swright@flossmoor.org or sign-up at www.flossmoor.org!

Village of Flossmoor

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Michelle Nelson

Hello Neighbors!

The holidays are here and Flossmoor has a great series of events to help us Celebrate the Season! The holiday season is a magical time in Flossmoor and another beautiful reminder of how special it is to live in this community. This year, I encourage all families across Flossmoor to partake in our holiday

festivities, like our annual tree lighting and Small Business Saturday on November 26 and a Christmas music show on December 10 at the Flossmoor Public Library. You are also invited to join me in Flossmoor Park for our annual Menorah lighting for the eight days of Hanukkah from December 18 to December 26 and the lighting of the Kinara for the seven nights of Kwanzaa from December 26 to January 1, 2023. These are special opportunities for us to come together to celebrate our varying beliefs and cultures, while being united as one community.

Our unity was on display this fall when we took on the colossal challenge of planting more than 300 trees in a single day! I swelled with pride and joy working alongside hundreds of volunteers who committed an entire Saturday morning to help enhance Flossmoor's beauty and environ-

mental health for generations to come. Thank you to every volunteer, all of our event organizers, the Hidden Gem Half Marathon crew, and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative for awarding us the \$30,000 grant to make this project a reality.

Our Department of Public Works also played a critical role in preparing for and implementing Plant the Gem. They work tirelessly, often in the background, to care for our roadways, our water and sewer system, parkways and so much more. Public Works took on several massive projects this year, including switching our water supply from Chicago to Hammond, Indiana, the Berry Lane Drainage Improvement Project, and 3.2 miles of road and sidewalk repairs.

In the spirit of the season, thank you to residents who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to welcome new neighbors, host block parties, coach/mentor our youth, donate to local charities, and feed, clothe and house those in need. As 2023 approaches, I hope to see you at our ice rinks, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service events, and out and about supporting local businesses and restaurants. I'm looking forward to the many opportunities to enjoy life together in this beautiful community that we all call home.

Happy holidays to you and your families. May you experience endless joy as you Celebrate the Season in Flossmoor!

Yours truly,
Mayor Nelson