

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Fall 2023
Volume 33 / Number 2



FUN AT THE FEST

Families will enjoy all the classics at this year's Flossmoor Fest, set for Saturday, Sept. 9, in Downtown Flossmoor.

Honor Flight Experience

A resident veteran takes a trip to remember
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Governor's Hometown Award Finalist

Read about this prestigious honor for Plant the Gem
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Streetscaping & Meter Replacement

News to use for all Flossmoor residents
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village officials

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Gina LoGalbo, Village Clerk
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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 p.m.

Community Relations Commission Meeting
4th Monday of the Month at 7 p.m.

Green Commission Meeting
3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7 p.m.

    **#ThisIsFlossmoor**
#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

Saturday, Sept. 9

HIDDEN GEM HALF MARATHON — Race Start: 7:30 a.m.
Welcome back the Hidden Gem Half Marathon and celebrate as runners traverse the 13.1-mile course through Flossmoor's neighborhoods. Come out and cheer the Gem! Details on page 9.

Saturday, Sept. 9

FLOSSMOOR FEST — 11 a.m.-7 p.m. | Downtown Flossmoor
Enjoy a full day of activities, for all featuring food, music, games, rides and more! A great day to play with friends and neighbors. Details on page 3.



2023 Schedule (Subject to change)

10 a.m. — Gem Finishers Dance Party
11 a.m. — Sounds by the Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl
11:30 a.m. — Opening Ceremony & National Anthem
Noon — Homewood-Flossmoor High School Marching Band
1 p.m. — Jesse White Tumblers
2-7 p.m. — Children's Activities
2 p.m. — Six of Spades
3 p.m. — Raspberry Ca-beret
5 p.m. — The Friends Band

Saturday, Oct. 7

RECYCLEPALOOZA — 9 a.m.-Noon | Parker Junior High School
Gather your recyclables and stop by! Visit www.flossmoor.org for a full list of accepted items.

Saturday, Oct. 28

PET PARADE — 3 p.m.
The Flossmoor Business Association invites pets (and their owners) to trick or treat in Downtown Flossmoor and Flossmoor Commons from 3-4 p.m., then join in a pet costume parade at 4 p.m. in Flossmoor Bark (Park). After the parade, a costume contest will be held on the Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery Caboose deck.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

TRICK-OR-TREATING — 3-7 p.m. | Village-wide Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours

Saturday, Nov. 4

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



FUN FOR ALL AT THIS YEAR'S FLOSSMOOR FEST

The community celebration of the year is coming soon as the Village of Flossmoor readies for Flossmoor Fest on Saturday, Sept. 9, in Downtown Flossmoor.

Join fellow residents, local businesses and special visitors for the all-day street party that celebrates living in Flossmoor and the wonderful features that unite our community. This year's fest will kick off at 11 a.m., immediately following the conclusion of the Hidden Gem Half Marathon with music played by the Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl. Opening ceremonies and the National Anthem will be played at 11:30 a.m. at the main stage. An annual favorite, the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Marching Band, will perform at noon, followed by the Jesse White Tumblers at approximately 1 p.m.

Kids' activities will run from 2-7 p.m. and will include amusement rides, inflatable bounce houses, a bungee run and the traditional 90-ft. slide. Additional children's activities will include a kiddie train, face painters, rolling video games and more.

Musical performers will include: Six of Spades — a group of five ultra-talented H-F High School students with an ethereal blend of harmonies, guitar and percussion — at 2 p.m.; Raspberry Ca-beret — a crew of local performers that will present popular hits and show tunes — at 3 p.m.; then The Friends Band from Chicago will close out the fest beginning at 5 p.m. with its eclectic selection of hits, both old and new.

The day will also feature excellent local food and drink options, and information booths highlighting local businesses, organizations and Village commissions. See you there! ●

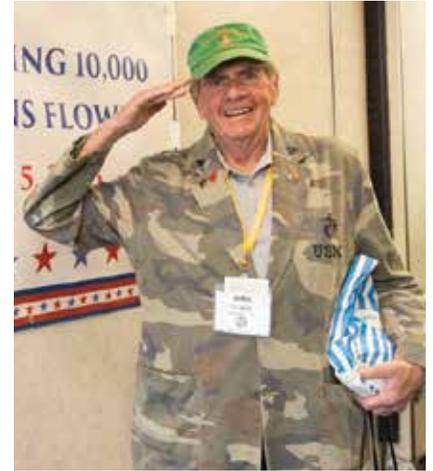
Fest Safety Upgraded

Please note that there are several public safety changes for this year's Flossmoor Fest, as a response to incidents and tragedies at community events in the greater Chicagoland area:

- The fest layout will be more centralized to downtown, enclosed with three entrance and exit points: (1) Sterling Avenue & Flossmoor Road; (2) Central Drive near the Central Drive Lot; and (3) Sterling Avenue near the Flossmoor Library parking lot. The children's rides and attractions will now be located on Sterling Avenue, near the library's parking lot.
- There will be increased security inside and outside of the fest. Attendees will have their bags searched and will be wanded.
- Additional officers have been added.
- Cameras and a drone will be used to help monitor safety.

All of these measures are being put into place to help ensure Flossmoor Fest continues to be a safe family and community event. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

flossmoor faces & places



Flossmoor Resident Takes an Honor Flight

When you speak with John Beele, he gets a twinkle in his eyes when he mentions his love for his family, his pride in serving as a U.S. Marine, and his love for Flossmoor. He and his wife, Nancy, have called Flossmoor home for decades; they were even married at St. Veronica's Church (formerly, Infant Jesus of Prague). John, a former Village of Flossmoor trustee, served as a U.S. Marine for six years. He recently received the privilege of flying on his Honor Flight. Honor Flight Chicago provides free trips for U.S. military veterans to visit war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Upon arriving at the airport, John describes an orchestrated operation

that filled every moment with intention and meaning from arrival until the return trip home later that same day. Every veteran is provided an escort that stays with them as they go through the day.

Once they arrived in D.C., he described a large celebration of volunteers and public officials welcoming them. They began their day at the U.S. Air Force to enjoy a ceremony specifically for them. After lunch, they visited the World War II Memorial, where a military band performed. Especially poignant for John was the visit to the Vietnam War Memorial. He said he loved swapping stories and recalling memories with his fellow veterans.

As they boarded the flight home, John mentions one of the most sentimental surprises of the day. The volunteers do a mail call, similar to what the veterans had experienced while serving. Each veteran was handed a stack of letters from loved ones to read during the flight. John shared a deep appreciation for the letters from his family, but also mentioned letters from Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson and Assistant Flossmoor Fire Department Chief Matt Berk. John was heartily welcomed home back home in Chicago by family members at the airport, who were holding beautiful signs for him. Thank you for your service, John! ●

Plant the Gem Named 2023 Governor's Hometown Award Finalist



For the second time in three years, the Village of Flossmoor has had an event named as a finalist in the Governor's Hometown Awards program. Plant the Gem, a community-wide event held last October, has been recognized as one of the best volunteer events in the state in 2022. At press time, a team from Flossmoor was heading to the Illinois State Fair in Springfield to present for the judges' panel for a final award determination.

Plant the Gem was a one-day Village of Flossmoor event — held in partnership with the Flossmoor Green Commis-

sion, the Hidden Gem Half Marathon and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative — that saw more than 250 volunteers of all ages and abilities join together to plant more than 300 trees in parkways and parks in Flossmoor. Volunteer teams included Village residents, nature enthusiasts, local organizations and staff and students from area schools. Twelve different tree varieties, which are native to the region, were planted with help from \$30,000 in federal funds, made available to the Chicago Region Trees Initiative through the support of Illinois State Representative Sean Casten.

The event grew out of the Village's initiative to ensure a healthy tree canopy for the tree-lined, nearly century-old Chicago suburb.

"Flossmoor residents and supporters aren't afraid to get dirty," says Mayor Michelle Nelson. "We work together on a variety of projects year-round that enhance our community and region. It's incredibly rewarding to know that our efforts are making a positive impact that will benefit people for generations to come."

The Village was also a finalist for the Governor's Cup in 2020 for its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. •

business spotlight

Custom Housekeeping

Pierre Emery and his mother, Darlene Emery, have proudly owned Custom Housekeeping at 2601 Flossmoor Road for more than 20 years. As the most veteran business in Downtown Flossmoor, the Emery family has seen many businesses come and go, but theirs has stood the test of time. Neither Pierre nor Darlene knows how to slow down, as Pierre works for United Airlines and Darlene worked for the Chicago Transit Authority for 29 years. As Flossmoor residents, the Emerys have never shied away from hard work.

Custom Housekeeping is undoubtedly a labor of love. They pride themselves on not missing a baseboard, door-knob or surface. Attention to detail, professionalism and treating their clients' homes as their own is essential. The Emerys believe in delivering quality service to their clients and exceeding their expectations. Mrs. Emery fondly shared that she's been privileged to watch many of her clients' children grow up. She referenced a particular Flossmoor family she's proudly worked with since 2003. Mrs. Emery lights up when she shares her favorite cleaning tip: clean windows and mirrors with vinegar, water and newspaper. She promises you'll have streak-free windows every time.

You've likely passed by Custom Housekeeping and admired their cozy storefront. They always have a plant in the window and a lamp on in the evening. You won't often find them in the shop, as much



Pierre & Darlene Emery

of their time is spent in the field or at the airline for Pierre. Custom Housekeeping was not spared from the difficulties that the pandemic brought on, however; it survived and is now looking to grow its staff and clientele. If you want to join the Custom Housekeeping team or have them care for your home, email customhskg@gmail.com. •

NEWS TO USE

Back-to-School Safety Reminders

Please note these new traffic features near our schools this year:

- 1. Stop Sign at Scott & Lawrence Crescents** — There is a new stop sign near Heather Hill School to make the passageway safer for students and to slow the rate of traffic near the school.
- 2. Western Avenue Route** — There is a revised school drop-off and pick-up route this year at Western Avenue School, involving one-way traffic on Vardon Place & Brassie Avenue during specific hours. This will begin as a 60-day pilot program this month, designed to increase the efficiency and safety of pedestrians and motorists. See details at www.Flossmoor.org.
- 3. Coming Up: School Zone on Governors Highway** — The Illinois Department of Transportation will soon be posting Governors Highway alongside Homewood-Flossmoor High School between Heather & Flossmoor Roads as a School Zone. The speed limit will become 20 MPH on school days when students are present. This will make a consistent School Zone around the H-F campus.



Get Ready to Recycle: Oct. 7

Close out summer with a cleaning spree and bring your recyclable items to Recyclepalooza, sponsored by the Village of Flossmoor Green Commission and Homewood Disposal! Clean out your closets, garage, attic, basement and

cupboards for all types of recyclable items and bring them out on Saturday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m.-Noon in the Parker Junior High School parking lot.

To keep things running smoothly and efficiently, participants are encouraged to stay in their vehicle with items sorted by category, clearly marked, and placed in the trunk so volunteers can unload their items. Recyclable items include:

- Electronics • Metals • LEGOs • Bicycles • Pop tops
- Used razors • Eyeglasses • Trophies • Flags
- Sporting goods • Ink/laser jet printers • Bread tags
- Plastic gift cards • Gently used clothes
- New travel-size toiletries • Small household items
- Gently used towels & blankets • Mascara wands
- Clean, dry styrofoam (no packing peanuts)
- Used oral care products & packaging
- TVs (\$20 per set)

New this year at Recyclepalooza:

The Village's Community Relations Commission will be partnering with Anew Building Beyond Violence & Abuse to collect donations for its clients, as October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Needed supplies include new toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby diapers/wipes and gift cards. Thank you for helping each other and for keeping our neighborhoods green! ●



ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC REMINDERS

A driver must come to a complete stop (and yield):

- When a pedestrian is in a marked crosswalk (standing on the sidewalk waiting to enter is not in the crosswalk).
- On school days when children are in close proximity to a school zone crosswalk.

A driver must yield to a pedestrian (not stop):

- When a pedestrian is in an unmarked crosswalk on the driver's side of the roadway and there are no traffic control signals.
- When making a turn at any intersection.
- When making a lawful turn on a red light after coming to a complete stop.
- After coming to a complete stop at a stop sign or flashing red signal at an intersection.
- When a pedestrian enters a crosswalk before the traffic light changes.
- When a pedestrian is walking with a green light, to a walking person symbol or a walk signal.
- When a pedestrian is entering an intersection with a flashing yellow arrow.

Also, for all of our school walkers and general pedestrians: Just because you can see a vehicle, it does not mean that they see you. Be sure to look both ways and only cross the street at designated crosswalks. ●

Water Meter Replacement Begins in October

Plans are underway for a large-scale water meter replacement project in Flossmoor that will begin this fall. This project involves the replacement of approximately 2,644 water meters and the installation of an automatic meter reading (AMR) system for the Village's entire water meter inventory. The Village has already replaced 1,100 water meters with newer technology smart meters; this project will complete the replacement of the remainder of the older-style meters still found in the Village.

The Village uses Sensus iPERLs and OMNI water meters. These meters are very accurate and are widely used by neighboring communities. Since the new meters are much more accurate than older meters, water bills may increase after completion of the project. While water bill increases are not desirable, the accuracy of gauging water usage is critical to the Village's water-loss reduction effort.

The Village Board of Trustees recently approved a contract for the meter equipment purchase from our Sensus vendor, Core & Main. Village staff and Baxter & Woodman engineers are working on the installation Request for Proposals document that will be released in August to qualified meter installation companies. The project installation work should begin in October and will take 4-6 months to complete. The installation work will require the installation contractor to:

- (1) Make appointments with residents to enter the home.
- (2) Install the new water meter.
- (3) Install the radio read device on the exterior of the home.
- (4) Conduct a water service material inspection.

Residents who already have a smart meter in their home will only have the radio read device installed and the water service material inspection completed. The water service material inspection will help Public Works staff plan for a future lead service replacement program in the future, as required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

If you have any questions about the water-meter replacement process, please contact the Public Works Department at 708-957-4100. ●



Example of a new Sensus water meter



Central Business District Improvement Project

A refresher is on the horizon for Flossmoor's downtown central business district! The Village was recently awarded a \$1 million-plus Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant that will be used to fund the construction for the Central Business District Roadway, Pedestrian & Streetscape Improvements Project.

Public Works staff and our engineering consultant, Baxter & Woodman, have been planning this project for the last couple of years. Phase 1 Engineering was completed using funding from Cook County's Invest-in-Cook grant program. Phase 2 Engineering, which will begin later this fall, will be 50% funded from the same Cook County grant program that was recently awarded to the Village.

This project will involve pedestrian safety improvements, roadway geometry improvements, and streetscape improvements that will enhance the downtown area from an aesthetic and safety perspective. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$1,480,570, and the ITEP grant will cover 80% of this cost (\$1,184,456). The project will be bid next spring with construction to follow in summer 2024. ●

school spotlight

Parker Junior High School Course Continues to Inspire & Shine



PHOTO BY ELISHA O'SHEA

In June, a group of four Parker Junior High School students represented Flossmoor — and the state of Illinois — at the 2023 National History Day Competition, held at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md. The event featured 3,000 national and international students, competing in junior and senior divisions.

After more than a decade in the program, Parker *Humanities* Teacher Linda O'Dwyer cannot say she's entirely surprised at the way her students can soar.

"Lucky for me," she says, but pauses. "We aren't lucky. It wasn't just a novelty. We run a solid program at Parker."

Humanities, a double-block class for 7th and 8th Graders that combines English and Social Studies courses, is taught at an accelerated pace, and goes deeply into the connection between literature, politics and culture of the time by using primary documents, contemporary stories and novels, and student-led research. The course is targeted for students in the 90th percentile or higher on the

NWEA MAP reading assessment.

The curriculum for the class includes a themed project for National History Day: a website, performance, documentary, paper or exhibit board. This year's theme was *Frontiers in History*. While the projects are mandatory, individual classes decide whether to enter those final projects into competition.

"They're not required to compete," O'Dwyer says. "But with kids like these? They always compete."

After rounds of competition at Parker, then at regionals at the University of Chicago, three Parker teams advanced to the state competition in Springfield. One 8th Grade team — Violet Bivens, Abby Mullin, Kammi Nelson and Eleanor O'Shea — took their performance-based project to the national competition in June. The team wrote and performed a play based on film directors Charlie Chaplin, Martin Scorsese, Stephen Spielberg and Alfred Hitchcock.

"We had some trouble finding backing source material," says O'Shea. "It was really challenging to turn the

information we had read about into a script."

While competing in Maryland, the Parker team made connections with fellow Illinois teams and enjoyed a personalized tour of the U.S. Capitol, where they met Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth. The girls also had special access to the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C.

"Being able to say I went to a national competition and represent my state is pretty cool," says O'Shea. "And being able to see Washington, even though it was really hot."

Elisha O'Shea, Eleanor's mother, says the program's emphasis on self-reliance was particularly apparent during competition.

"It is so incredibly cool. I didn't understand the scale of the program until we were there," she says, adding she did not see the girls' full performance until the national competition. "I'm really glad Ellie got a chance to take part. Ms. O'Dwyer has such genuine affection for her students."

O'Dwyer says while the accolades — such as the D.C. trip — are welcome, she hopes the life experiences built through the projects themselves are what will stick with her students, including the Muhammad Ali project, completed by another group of 8th Graders (Quentin Betts, Kolby Daniels, Jaylan Gardner and Christian Sally). Their project led to a primary-source interview with Ali's daughter, Maryum, a Parker alumna.

"That is a lifetime memory for them that they will carry forever," O'Dwyer says. "I love this program. These are rigorous projects these kids are taking on, and they rise to the occasion, every time." ●



PHOTO BY JOHN KELLY

THE LITTLE RACE THAT COULD

The Hidden Gem Half Marathon is setting an impressive pace, seizing the prestigious 2022 Race of the Year honor from the Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) after leaving the starting block just three years ago.

“It’s like the Grammys of the race awards we give out,” explains Tim Bradley, CARA executive director. “For how young the race is, they’ve grown really quickly in awareness.”

In fact, after the disruption of the pandemic, the Gem joins just the Lakefront 10 Miler in the rarified air of past winners, a list notable for its domination by races held in Oak Park and Evanston. Started in 1979 by CARA, the nation’s third-largest running club, 15 races currently vie for the title, including the Chicago Marathon itself.

“We recognize individual races, as well,” Bradley says, “But Race of the Year is like an MVP award. To get it two years in a row, you have to really outdo yourself to keep it interesting.”

Tom Dobrez, Hidden Gem co-founder and Flossmoor resident, is confident the Gem can do just that.

“This community has so much going for it, we thought it would be important to let everyone know about it,” he says of a race that five years ago was just a dream in area runners’ heads. “That’s why we have been doing these things. It’s going to pay dividends as we get recognized beyond our zip code.”

Bradley, who hasn’t made past Gems, says the feedback he’s received aligns with Dobrez’ assessment.

“People have been really impressed by the friendliness of the community and their level of involvement,” he says.

This year’s event — set for Saturday, Sept. 9 — is expected to draw 1,000+ runners. Last year’s participants hailed from 22 states and four countries; this year will include at least one more.

“I’m looking forward to coming down and checking it out,” says Bradley. ●

Hidden Gem Road Closures

There will be a series of rolling road closures on Saturday, Sept. 9, during the Hidden Gem Half Marathon (7 a.m.-Noon). There will be a period of “soft” closures then “hard” closures when runners enter each neighborhood. Hard closures will vary by neighborhood and are unlikely to last longer than one hour in most areas. The Police Department will waive the no-overnight-parking ban on Friday, Sept. 8, allowing residents to leave a car outside of the closure area for easy access in the morning. Expect closures on:

- Kedzie Avenue (Flossmoor Road to 193rd Street)
- Governors Hwy. (Heather Road to Flossmoor Road)
- Flossmoor Road
- Western Avenue (Vardon Lane to Flossmoor Road)
- Braemar Road
- Baythorne Neighborhood (7:30-8:15 a.m.)
- Ballantrae Neighborhood (7:30-9 a.m.)
- Flossmoor Hills Neighborhood (7:30-9:15 a.m.)
- Heather Hill Neighborhood (7:30-10:30 a.m.)
- Flossmoor Estates Neighborhood (8-10:45 a.m.)
- Flossmoor Park Neighborhood (8:15-11:15 a.m.)
- Old Flossmoor Neighborhood (8:30-11:30 a.m.)



NEIGHBORS' GARDENS SHOWCASED IN WALK

Area residents were treated to a double dose of Flossmoor flowers during the 11th Annual Southland Community Garden Walk on July 16. The gardens of Flossmoor residents — and neighbors — Cheryl & Ted Tolish and Michael & Elaine Purcell were both featured on the walk. Visitors meandered back and forth between the Purcells' deck, complete with a water feature and colorful pots, along a whimsically decorated path around the perimeter of the property to the Tolish grounds.

Ted Tolish said that event docent Sue McCarthy helped him overcome his reluctance to have his garden featured in the walk since she stressed that homeowners did not have to be

master gardeners to be featured.

"Some of the other people [in the tour] did all of their own gardening," Tolish says. "We're basically 'semi-gardeners.'"

The couple recently completed a landscaping redesign project to their storied 1929 Old Flossmoor home, replacing a dead tree and decaying driveway with a path lined by raised garden beds leading to a chair-ringed firepit and garage designed to mimic a small cottage.

Once McCarthy used her powers of persuasion on Tolish, he promptly convinced his neighbor, Michael Purcell, to join the fun.

"Ted told me, 'You have to do it; people are going to come on this walk

and go to your yard, and not ours,'" Purcell says. "And it wasn't a big deal, other than not knowing what to expect."

An afternoon enthusing over the benefits of water features with random strangers (nearly 350 garden enthusiasts participated in the walk this year) left his attitude unchanged. "It's been so fun," he said.

Presented by the National Council for Jewish Women for more than a decade, all proceeds from the walk went to support Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness and Respond Now, both non-profits serving the South Suburbs. Next year's walk will feature a greater percentage of Flossmoor homes, organizers say. ●

commission corner



Art Commission

Pictured at left, meet the newest sculpture in town: *Sans Titre Ref 366* by sculptor Nicolas Dubreuille. The latest piece in the Art Commission's Rotational Collection can be found at the intersection of Argyle & Park Avenues near Downtown Flossmoor. Composed of aluminum and painted a vibrant shade of purple, the piece incorporates elements of geometry and abstraction. It will be on display at the Argyle traffic circle for three years. Sculptures like this are made possible thanks to donations from our generous Flossmoor residents. Did you know you can add a donation of \$3, \$5 or \$10 to your quarterly water bill to automatically support the Flossmoor Public Art Program Fund? If you would like more information on how to participate, please contact Village of Flossmoor Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Wright at swright@flossmoor.org. •

Community Relations Commission

The Green Commission will get a teammate this year for Recyclepalooza — set for Saturday, Oct. 7 — in the Community Relations Commission (CRC). During a monthly CRC meeting, the commission searched for ways to support existing Flossmoor events. Committed to a mission of volunteerism and supporting community partners, the CRC thought Recyclepalooza seemed like a natural fit. During the Juneteenth festival, CRC Chairperson Leon-Thompson engaged with Anew Building Beyond Violence & Abuse, which had a booth near the Village at the festival. An idea was born after a conversation and learning of their needs. Anew is a non-profit based in Homewood that provides caring and confidential help to victims of domestic violence. The CRC decided that at Recyclepalooza they would add an Anew donation spot as a last stop before exiting the event space. Anew was thrilled about the partnership, as October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Donations of larger-size diapers (sizes 4-6 and Pull-Ups), baby wipes, laundry soap, kitchen-size garbage bags, paper towels, dish soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant and hand soap are needed. They always accept gift cards of \$20+ to support their client's needs. For more information on Anew, visit anewdv.org. •

Green Commission

The **Green Commission** is working in partnership with — and under the direction of the Public Works Department — to bring more native plants to Village green spaces. Green Commission Chairperson Tristan Shaw identified the water-detention space in front of Village Hall as having optimal conditions for Swamp Milkweed. This native plant does well in wet conditions and is a friend of the Monarch butterfly. With the help of Public Works and Village Arborist Dave Becker, the team agreed on a number of plantings and a location. Next time you stop by Village Hall, take a peek at the soon-to-be Butterfly Observatory! •



Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoor.org • [@FlossmoorIL](https://www.instagram.com/FlossmoorIL)

Mayor's Message



Mayor Michelle Nelson

worked tirelessly to make these gatherings memorable and successful!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will know the winner of the 2023 Governor's Hometown Award. The Village of Flossmoor was chosen as one of four finalists statewide to present our community, volunteer-driven project — Plant the Gem — to judges at the Illinois State Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 16. Held last October, Plant the Gem was the planting of 300 parkway (and park) trees across the village; it was the largest single-day tree planting in the State of Illinois (see more on p. 5). Regardless of the outcome of the final award recipient, we are extremely proud of the inclusive, collaborative and environmental impact of this event, which will benefit our village for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who played a role in this incredible project.

Speaking of tree planting ... young trees need water! Thank you to all the neighbors, Fire Department and Public Works staff, Green Commissioners and volunteers who took time to water parkway trees throughout this dry

Greetings! Can you believe the kids have started another school year? Summer went by fast with numerous successful events organized by staff, local businesses, and non-profit organizations that highlighted the beauty of our community to a national audience and brought residents together to form stronger bonds. Thank you to village staff and volunteers who

summer. Please continue to water your tree until it becomes dormant in the fall.

Economic development is also growing in the village, which is in line with our strategic plan. We've been busy identifying and reaching out to prospective businesses with help from an economic-development consultant who has relationships with national and regional brands that are looking to expand. They have also assembled consumer-trade area reports from mobile data to help make a case for bringing businesses to Flossmoor. To view our economic-development site and market profiles, please visit (and share) www.Retail360.us/Flossmoor-Illinois. If you have a business to add to our recruitment list or a contact who can help us with this effort, please email info@flossmoor.org with your ideas.

Even more aesthetic and safety enhancements are coming to downtown Flossmoor! Last spring, the village received an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant worth \$1.18 million to fund the construction of streetscape and safety improvements in our central business district. Then in July we were awarded an Invest in Cook grant from Cook County to fund the design engineering portion of the project. We are moving full steam ahead on renovations that will beautify and enhance walkability of our downtown in 2024! Read more in *News You Can Use* on p. 7, and stay informed on the progress by reading the biweekly Village enewsletter, daily social media posts (@FlossmoorIL on Facebook; @FlossmoorVillage on Instagram) and by visiting our website: www.Flossmoor.org.

See you at Flossmoor Fest on Saturday, Sept. 9!

— Yours truly,
Mayor Nelson