

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Spring 2024
Volume 33 / Number 4



SPOTLIGHT ON THE CENTENNIAL

Flossmoor is turning 100 in 2024, and the celebration will continue all year long! See highlights from Flossmoor's history and centennial event information on page 3.

Bugging Out
What to know about cicada season.
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Foodservice Shuffle
Staffing changes at downtown restaurants.
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Help is on the Way
Improved emergency services for those in crisis.
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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 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



Sunday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade — 2 p.m. / Flossmoor Community Church Community House. Flossmoor's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade is a great way to celebrate the holiday with friends, family and neighbors of all ages. Lineup begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Flossmoor Community Church Community House, and the parade promptly begins at 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 6

Chicago Southland Green Committee Community Cleanup — 9 a.m.-Noon. Join the Flossmoor Green Commission, the Flossmoor Public Works Department and volunteers for a community cleanup day. See more info and sign up at [Flossmoor.org](https://www.flossmoor.org).

Saturday, April 13

New Resident Mixer — 4-6 p.m. / Flossmoor Public Library. New Flossmoor residents are invited to join the Village of Flossmoor, Flossmoor SD 161, H-F District 233 and other Village stakeholders for an afternoon of camaraderie, information and fun. Invitations will be mailed out to new residents. Please RSVP at [Flossmoor.org](https://www.flossmoor.org).

Monday, April 15

2024 Vehicle Stickers & Animal Tags Purchase Deadline — See details on page 6.

Saturday, April 20

Flossmoor Baseball & Softball Parade — 9:30 a.m. / Parker Junior High School. Come cheer on our community kids as they parade through town, from Parker's parking lot ending up at Bronco Field to start the season! Play ball!

Friday, May 10

Coffee with a Cop — 10 a.m.-Noon / Starbucks, Flossmoor. Enjoy coffee and treats with members of the Flossmoor Police Department.

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day / Taps Across America — Downtown Flagpole. Taps will be played in the Downtown Traffic Circle. Time is TBA. **Note:** Village Hall & Public Works are closed today.



100 YEARS OF CIVIC PRIDE & PROGRESS

The Village of Flossmoor is celebrating the centennial of its incorporation this year. The story of our Village is similar to other suburbs in the Chicago area — in that its development was tied to easy access to the big city — but it has a unique history all its own.

Trains

In the late 1880s, decades after indigenous Native American tribes were forced to relocate west of the Mississippi River, the Illinois Central (IC) railroad (today's Metra line) acquired 160 acres of land north of Flossmoor Road (then called Illinois Street) and west of Western Avenue. Several years later, the land was subdivided and on it were built the six earliest houses in Flossmoor, many by German immigrants. In 1899, the Flossmoor Country Club (then known as the Homewood Country Club) was founded, which led to excursion trips by Chicagoans on the IC to Flossmoor that entitled passengers to a free lunch in the hopes they would choose to stay in the area — right from the start, Flossmoor was a destination for those looking for a good meal and fun activities!

Buildings

Eventually, the area's population reached a level deemed appropriate for forming a local government: 265. The Village founders gathered and signed official documents incorpo-

rating Flossmoor into a Village on June 20, 1924. The needs of this young Village government created much of the architecture in Flossmoor. In 1929, the cornerstone was laid for the Civic Center, the block-long, Tudor-style building that still gives Flossmoor's downtown its classic charm today along Sterling Avenue at Flossmoor Road. Throughout the years, the Civic Center has been home to Village Hall, the Flossmoor State Bank, the Flossmoor Super Mart, Lapin Pharmacy and Schlatt's Hardware, among many other businesses. Today, it features clothing stores, beauty shops, a record store, an optometrist, a law office, apartments and more.

High-quality, unique architecture is another feature of our Village; you'll find no cookie-cutter neighborhoods here. Early homes featured Tudor, four-square and Spanish-revival styles. In older sections of the Village, you will even find homes designed by famous architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, Purcell & Elmslie and Keck & Keck. As the Village grew and styles changed, sprawling mid-century ranches and contemporary homes — including condos and townhomes — were built.

People & Progress

The post-World War II housing boom initiated a migration of Chicago residents to the Village, a trend that recurred late in the 20th Century and early in the 21st Century. New neighborhoods — including Heather Hill, Flossmoor Hills and

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Ballantrae — were added in the coming decades, along with new school buildings for growing populations.

Unsatisfied with the overcrowded high schools currently serving Flossmoor, a group of dedicated residents began planning their own ideal high school in the early 1950s.

With 8,060 signatures from residents of Flossmoor and neighboring Homewood, the Cook County School Board accepted a petition to have a new high school district built in 1956. Three years later, Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School District 233 opened in September 1959 on a 95-acre campus that was once farmland north of Flossmoor Road.

This community activism that resulted in H-F High School is another unique feature of our Village.

Flossmoor has been home to community organizations and civic groups since its earliest years. The Flossmoor Service League — still operating today — was formed in 1953 by a group of female residents who wanted to raise money for local charities. Its annual “house walk,” a tour of elegant homes, takes place each May. Volunteerism thrives in the Village through Commissions and non-profit organizations, such as Flossmoor Baseball & Softball, Respond Now, PADS, Friends of the Library, Flossmoor Veterans Memorial, as well as through our schools and park district.

We are proud of the Village that has been built and are happy that you are a part of Flossmoor's future! Stay tuned to this year's 2024 newsletters for more on Flossmoor's history and don't miss the centennial timeline at: www.flossmoor.org/586/Centennial-Timeline.

Sources: *Images of America — Flossmoor, Illinois, 1999; Flossmoor Then & Now, 1974*



100-Year Homes

Flossmoor was incorporated into a village in 1924. Before this time, there were already many homes built in our neighborhoods and many soon followed in 1924. As part of our centennial celebration this year, the Village would like to recognize and celebrate Flossmoor homes and buildings that share a birthday with the Village — or that are even already older than 100. If you know that your home fits this category, please let us know at Info@Flossmoor.org, so we can be sure to bring you a special centennial sign for your yard this spring! Already identified locations include:

- Argyle Avenue: 753, 904 & 908
- Braeburn Avenue: 1130, 1140, 1145, 1309, 1415, 1441, 1448, 1502, 2425, 2448 & 2506
- Brassie Avenue: 1136, 1146, 1222, 1248, 1295, 1300 & 1344
- Bruce Avenue: 711, 815, 816, 845, 910 & 911
- Burns Avenue: 700, 830 & 915
- Butterfield Circle: 1, 5 & 7
- Douglas Avenue: 1023, 1029, 1037, 1116 & 1144
- Evans Road: 2043 & 2245
- Flossmoor Road: 2612, 2709, 2825 & 2840
- Hawthorne Lane: 2409 & 2425
- Park Drive: 838, 904, 927, 928, 936 & 2621
- Sterling Avenue: 912, 926, 1034 & 1035
- Western Avenue: 842, 1044, 1110, 1214, 1240, 1330, 1418, 1760 & 2228

Also identified are: 2448 Brookwood Drive, 2621 Central Drive, 18916 Dixie Highway, 2 Eden Oaks Lane, 2135 Hagan Lane, 1801 Holly Court, 2122 Hutchison, 2242 MacDonald and 1825 Sylvan Court.

Upcoming Centennial Events

The Village has plans to celebrate its 100th birthday all year long through a variety of activities, micro-events and larger events, including three new community happenings:

- **Take Me Out to the Ballgame on Thursday, June 20** — Enjoy old-fashioned baseball and softball games featuring Flossmoor Baseball & Softball players at Homewood-Flossmoor High School's Varsity Field.
- **Kegs & Eggs on Saturday, Sept. 7** — This post-race celebration with live music and refreshments will immediately follow the 5th Hidden Gem Half-Marathon in downtown Flossmoor.
- **OAKtoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 5** — Flossmoor's new signature event will combine education, environmentalism and fun with nature-themed children's activities during the day, an informative tree walk in the afternoon and an Oktoberfest-style party in the evening at the Village's south Metra lot.



Thank You to Our Centennial Sponsors

VIP Level

- Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery
- Kathleen Field Orr

Connected Level

- Meijer
- Prairie State College

Beautiful Level

- Bank Financial
- Bloom Township
- The Center for Dental Excellence
- Flossmoor Animal Hospital
- Governors State University
- Leland Grove Law, LLC
- Nicor Gas
- Southland Smiles



March 17: St. Patrick's Day Parade

April 6: Southland Community Clean Up

April 13: New Resident Mixer

April 20: Flossmoor Baseball & Softball Parade / Opening Day

May 10: Coffee with a Cop

May 27: Taps Across America

May TBA: New Sculpture Installation

June 1: Bike the Gem

June 7: Pride Night at Irwin Park

June 19: Juneteenth Parade

June 20: Take Me Out to the Ballgame / Flossmoor's Birthday

July 4: Volunteer Fire Dept. 4th of July Parade

July 25: IPO Chamber Night

August 6: National Night Out / Touch a Truck

August 16: Back-to-School Birthday Bash

September 7: Hidden Gem / Kegs & Eggs

September 19: National Hispanic Heritage Month Performance

September 21: Recyclepalooza

September TBA: New Sculpture Installation

October 5: OAKtoberfest

October 19: Fall Tree Planting

October 26: FBA Pet Parade & Costume Contest

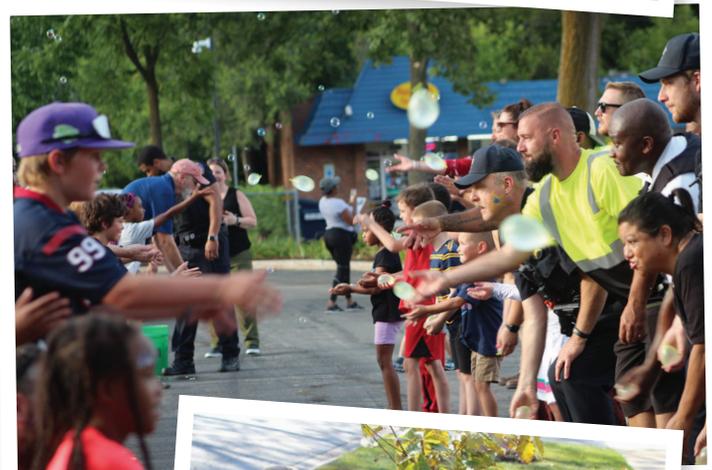
November 2: Pumpkin Smash

November 30: Small Business Saturday / Celebrate the Season

December 7: Gingerbread Village Tours & Holiday Children's Performance

December 14: Senior Santa Letters

December 19: Holiday Lights Parade



NEWS TO USE!

Cicadas Want to Celebrate the Centennial, Too

This spring, brood XIII of the 17-year cicadas will emerge significantly in May and June. While the green and brown insects are generally not harmful to people or pets (apart from the loud noises they make), cicadas can damage small tree branches. Females cut slits in small twigs to lay eggs. An adult female can lay up to 600 eggs during her lifetime. After six to 10 weeks, the eggs hatch and the young cicadas fall to the ground to burrow into the soil. They will spend the next 17 years feeding on small roots (we'll meet them in 2041).

Unfortunately, small twigs may wilt and break during this process. Newly planted trees under 2-in. diameter are most affected. Mature and healthy trees may show symptoms of stress and dieback on small-diameter branches, causing some natural pruning. The damage will not harm mature and healthy trees. Host trees for cicadas include Maple, Hickory, Oaks, Dogwood, Walnut, Linden and Elm. Below are options to help reduce and manage cicada damage:

- Consider waiting to plant very young trees under 2-in. diameter until after the cicada emergence or in the fall.
- Cover newly planted trees with netting. Wrap the netting around the entire tree canopy and trunk as close to the



ground as possible. Remove netting after the emergence is over.

- Remove dead and damaged branches on small trees after their emergence.
- Prune small trees as needed for the next few years, to help promote tree structure.

The Village is also taking steps to manage the cicada emergence, including inspecting and pruning young parkway trees after the emergence. The Village will also avoid planting trees this spring, but will be planning a fall 2024 tree planting. Applications for the fall 2024 Parkway Tree Program will be available this summer. For more information on the 2024 cicadas, visit www.extension.illinois.edu.

Resident Reminder: 2024 Vehicle Stickers & Animal Tags

In the Village of Flossmoor, annual vehicle stickers must be purchased and displayed by Monday, 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 starting on Friday, March 1 (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, Flossmoor, IL 60422
 - Drop Box: Located in the parking lot of the Village Hall (stickers will be mailed; cash payments not accepted)
 - Village Hall Lockbox: Located inside the Police Department (stickers will be mailed; cash payments accepted)
 - Fees: Cars \$40 (Seniors 65+ may receive one sticker per household at \$15); Trucks – A or B \$40; Over B \$65; RV \$40; Motorcycles \$20

Animal tags for your dogs and cats must also be purchased by Monday, April 15. Applications are included with the vehicle sticker renewal form sent to all households. Visit www.flossmoor.org for more information.

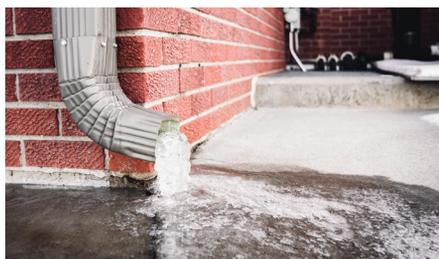


flossmoor faces & places

Four Spring Flooding Facts

1. About 75% of all presidential disaster declarations are associated with flooding, but FEMA assistance is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses caused by a disaster.
2. Heavy rain, snowmelt and ice jams can all cause rivers and streams to overflow, increasing the risk of floods and flash flooding. River flooding can impact cities and towns throughout the floodplain, far from the river itself.
3. Ice jam flooding is caused when chunks of ice are pushed together to create a dam due to heavy precipitation. As the water begins to build up, this causes a spillover, potentially breaking the ice walls.
4. While special flood hazard areas face the greatest risk of flooding, more than 40% of flood insurance claims come from moderate- to low-risk areas.

Prepare yourself and your family for potential flooding by getting flood insurance, knowing your flood risk, taking household inventory and storing important documents. Steps to mitigate your flood risk also include elevating and anchoring utilities, waterproofing your basement, clearing debris from gutters and elevating or moving your furniture. Learn more by contacting the Flossmoor Public Works Department at 708-957-4100 or visit www.agents.floodsmart.gov.



Artist Made an Impact

One of America's most important and beloved sculptors passed away in December at age 88, and Flossmoor is fortunate to have one of his spectacular pieces in its public art collection.

Chicago native Richard Hunt — an internationally acclaimed African American sculptor who held more than 150 solo exhibitions and is represented in more than 100 public museums worldwide — donated his stainless-steel piece, *Uplifted*, to the Village in 2004. Created in memory of his late wife, Lenore Cartwright Hunt, *Uplifted* features flowing strips of steel that reach up towards the sky. The piece is located on the north-east corner of Leavitt Park, home to the Flossmoor Sculpture Garden.

"I get a feeling of flight and optimism from the organic flowing forms," says Mike Cheney, a long-time member of the Public Art Commission. "The stainless steel almost feels like it's painted in energetic gestural paint strokes, jutting through the air."

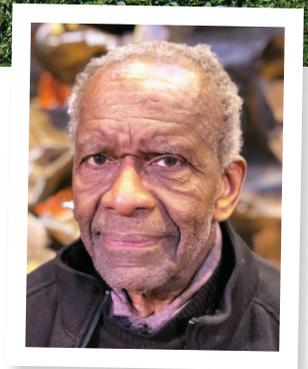
Flossmoor had initially leased the sculpture for its public art program in 2003. The Village has a collection of permanent sculptures, but it also displays a number of pieces on a rotational basis.

Valued at the time at \$80,000, the permanent acquisition of *Uplifted* in the early 2000s was made possible through a joint donation from Hunt and an anonymous donor. It has since generated much excitement and accolades for the Village's public art program, as many artists are keen to have their own work featured by Hunt's piece.

Hunt came to Flossmoor for the sculpture dedication ceremony, held Sept. 11, 2004. The Flossmoor Sculpture Garden that day joined the list of many well-known locations to have been graced with a dedicated Hunt sculpture; other locations have included Howard University, the Martin Luther King Memorial, the Snite Museum of Art, the Museum of African American History, the Krasel Art Center, the Fredrik Meijer Gardens and the White House.

"Flossmoor is very honored to have this stunning, priceless piece in our collection," says Cheney, who first met Hunt while studying sculpture as a graduate student at the University of Illinois in the 1970s. "On top of being a great sculptor, Richard was a wonderful, kind and modest man."

One of Hunt's final pieces, *Book Bird*, will be placed in the Library Reading Garden outside the new Chicago Public Library branch on the Obama Presidential Center campus in Chicago, set to be completed by October 2025.



Richard Hunt

business spotlight

New Chef/Owner at The Bistro on Sterling



Yvette Zavala is the new chef/owner at The Bistro on Sterling.

After nearly seven years as owners, Rich and Tracy Cairo sold The Bistro on Sterling (1040 Sterling Ave.) to the restaurant's Executive Chef Yvette Zavala. The ownership transfer took place in January 2024. Chef Zavala had worked at The Bistro under the Cairos for more than three years. The restaurant has been closed briefly during the change, but Chef Zavala plans to reopen the downtown spot under the same name this spring.

She has big plans for the restaurant, including opening now for lunch six days per week and adding brunch service

on Sundays. New menu items will include a Black & Blue Burger, a Sweet & Spicy Chicken Sandwich (with her homemade hot sauce) and Cinnamon Chicken & Waffles. No worries: popular favorites, such as the Shrimp & Grits and New Orleans Pasta, will still be served. With influences from her family in New Orleans, Chef Zavala plans to focus on "good, healthier foods that will fill you up" and will make you "feel loved and full."

Chef Zavala started working in Flossmoor restaurants making salads at Fresh Starts (the previous restaurant at The Bistro's location). Then owner Joann Lindstrom helped her spread her culinary wings and encouraged her to grow in the field. She studied at Ivy Tech Community College and grew up on Chicago's Southeast side, but Chef Zavala clearly is a Flossmoor fan.

"It's like coming home; my culinary career started here," she says. "I love the Flossmoor community, the people, the energy, and I love how it's changing and I want to be a part of that."

Like her mentors, she's looking to inspire young people, too, and wants to partner with the growing Culinary program at Homewood-Flossmoor High School. Visit The Bistro on Sterling this spring and see all the progress on the menu, at the bar and in the kitchen. Hours will be Tuesdays-Thursdays 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sundays 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

New Chef & Brewmaster Come Aboard Flossmoor Station



Cheers to new Station hires Head Chef & Kitchen Manager, Chris Ball and Brewmaster, Jake LaDuke.



There are new faces behind the exciting new menu and bar changes at Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery (1035 Sterling Ave.). In the kitchen, Head Chef / Kitchen Manager Chris Ball brings his 25 years of culinary experience to Flossmoor. After starting his career as a New York City lawyer, Chef Ball pursued French culinary training and spent more than a decade refining his craft in southwest France. In 2019, Chris and his partner settled in Flossmoor, immersing themselves in the community. He stepped up to his current role at the Station in November, eager to create new culinary experiences for patrons.

Don't miss his nightly specials or his avocado fries.

Meanwhile, Jake LaDuke has taken over the brew duties as the Station's new Brewmaster. Originally an IT professional, LaDuke fueled his passion for beer making (beginning with a beer he crafted for his own wedding reception) and transformed his hobby into a profession. Venturing into the craft beer scene, Jake honed his skills while working for eight years at Chicago Brew Werks until he became a full-time brewer for Werk Force. The opportunity to join the Station team was a natural progression for him. Stop by the Station soon to try his latest creations!

school spotlight

Long-Range Construction Plan for SD 161

Find Treasures at the Oxford Art Exchange

One of Flossmoor's newest businesses celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, Jan. 12. Check out the Oxford Art Exchange, located in the Shops On Sterling (Sterling Avenue and Flossmoor Road) and owned by Flossmoor resident Kevin Walsh. Kevin curates and sells vintage and modern unique wall art, sculptures, books and collectibles. He has been procuring artistic treasures for many years at estate sales through critical and precepting collecting and decided to open his own retail space. From original works of art to reproductions of Greek sculptures to collectible keepsakes, there is something for every taste and style in his shop at affordable prices. His shop is open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 1-6 p.m.



Kevin Walsh



Students at Flossmoor School District 161 will soon be able to enjoy renovated classrooms at all five of the district's schools.

Flossmoor School District 161 is committed to providing exceptional learning opportunities and experiences for its students. Since 2017, the district has updated all curriculum materials to ensure that students have the most up-to-date content to prepare them for high school and beyond.

Now, the district is in the process of improving school environments to make some much-needed updates. Overall, approximately \$19 million in physical improvements is planned, beginning in the summer of 2024 and concluding after the summer of 2026.

"We are excited for this substantial investment in our schools and the work will have an immediate impact on our learning spaces," says Superintendent Dr. Dana Smith.

A general schedule of the work is below:

- Summer 2024: Masonry work, two boiler replacements and window/door replacements
- Summer 2025: Heather Hill: office relocation, roof replacement and classroom renovations. Flossmoor Hills: classroom renovations
- Summer 2026: Classroom renovations at Serena Hills, Western Avenue and Parker Junior High

Summer Academy Information

The Flossmoor School District 161 Summer Academy will be in session June 10-July 18 at Parker Junior High School. The Summer Academy experience is available for all students. Intervention classes are available for children who need additional support; enrichment classes are offered for children who need an academic challenge during the summer. The learning opportunities are focused on the individual needs of the students and are designed to help them reach their potential. Registration is open from March 5-May 3, with a Parent Orientation Meeting on Thursday, June 6. If you have any questions about the program, please contact the district at 708-647-7000.

Flossmoor Partnering with Mobile Crisis Response Teams

In August 2021, Illinois Governor Pritzker signed the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act (CESSA) into law. This new legislation requires emergency response operators — such as those at public safety answering points (PSAP), or as used in Flossmoor, Ecom Dispatch Center — to refer non-life threatening calls seeking mental- or behavioral-health support to a new service that can dispatch a team of mental-health professionals instead of the police. This marks a significant change in state policy, as it will require coordination between law enforcement and non-police responders to best respond to emergency calls. While the law has yet to be officially implemented in Illinois as protocols are still being established across the state, Flossmoor’s emergency services departments have already made improvements in the area of responding to those needing mental- or behavioral-health assistance within our current protocols.

“Even before this act was passed, the Village noticed that calls for mental-health service were rising,” says Village Manager Bridget Wachtel. “We decided to look for ways to better respond and help the public.”

Once the act was passed, Flossmoor’s Public Safety Answering Point Executive Director of 911 Craig Kowalski and Flossmoor Fire Department Chief Robert Kopec (who was named a CESSA Regional 7 Committee EMS Provider Representative) both began to participate in state-wide



committees to better understand and positively influence the roll out of the new law. While the implementation of the law has been delayed by the state for a number of reasons, Chief Kopec has been instrumental in opening the dialogue between mental- and behavioral-health social service agencies and first responders in Flossmoor.

“Since implementation, we have observed numerous positive outcomes,” he says. “Our ability to deliver suitable treatment to patients in crisis, ensuring long-term success, has proven effective in Flossmoor. Notably, we have

witnessed a decrease in the frequency of callbacks for the same patient when our crews utilize the new program. While the program is still in its early stages and not yet flawless, it shows promise as a viable solution to address the mental-health crisis we are currently facing.”

Through his leadership, Flossmoor has been able to supplement its response to non-emergency, non-life threatening calls by connecting mental- and behavioral-health service providers either on the scene of a call or as follow-up after. Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT) from organizations such as Grand Prairie Services and Kirby Rehabilitation have partnered with Flossmoor throughout the past year. Service calls to these partners are funded through grants available to the providers through the State of Illinois.

“Flossmoor has been a leader in this area in the South Suburbs, and other communities are asking for a seat at the table,” says Wachtel, “For the first time in local EMS history, we have opened dialogue between public safety first responders and social workers who provide wrap-around services. It’s been eye-opening for both sides.”

Although the CESSA program is not yet fully activated, Flossmoor Fire and Police Departments have already requested local MCRT providers to attend mental-health emergencies on approximately 12 occasions since its implementation. It is important to note that not every mental-health call necessitates the presence of a MCRT, says Chief Kopec.

“Our crews assess the situation and gather information upon arrival at the scene to determine if the MCRT is required. If the need for a MCRT is identified, our crews remain on-site until the team arrives,” he says.

Upon their arrival, crews provide a comprehensive summary of the situation and offer assistance while the MCRT members work with the patient to deescalate the situation or provide aid. In cases where the patient requires transportation to the hospital, the MCRT meets the ambulance at the receiving hospital and offers additional support to the patient. Once at the hospital, the MCRT assesses the patient’s specific treatment needs, which may include specialized in-patient or out-patient treatment, crisis stabilization, and therapeutic programs tailored to the patient’s requirements.

As Illinois progresses towards the full implementation of CESSA as planned on July 1, Flossmoor Fire and Police are optimistic that the final legislation will establish a comprehensive system to effectively support individuals in crisis.

commission corner



A Successful Day of Service

This year, the need was great as the weather was cold for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, and Flossmoor residents and organizations answered the call. Groups collected food, diapers, hygiene products, socks and gloves, books, healthy snacks and more than 130 Lego sets. Recipients included first responders, at-risk college students, veterans, senior citizens, unhoused individuals, domestic shelters, community pantries and adoptable pets. More than 800 lbs. of electronics were saved from landfills at the PCs for People drive at Park Place in Flossmoor Park. Blood donations at the Irwin Community Center exceeded expectations, as did volunteer turnouts for several school-based efforts. The special programming by two local Jack and Jill of America chapters demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism, justice, equality and community building. Their messages encouraged standing up against injustice, educating others, getting involved, voting and following your dreams. Thank you to the Community Relations Commission and the dozens of organizations for making this day off in January truly a day on.

Sculpture Changes for 2024

The Public Art Commission has a busy year planned for 2024. In addition to a new fundraiser, anticipate seeing at least three new sculptures in the Village this year.

- Homewood-Flossmoor High School 3D Art students and teacher Greg Petecki are ready to make their next sculpture for public display in Flossmoor. Look for *Centennial* to be installed in front of the Flossmoor Public Library in the early fall. The sculpture currently on display there since 2016, *Kinetic Vision*, is planned to be relocated to a new location near Heather Hill Elementary School later this spring.
- The Public Art Commission was pleased to be able to accept generous donations of three related untitled sculptures from artist William O'Brien and one large-scale sculpture titled *Paradise* from the estate of artist Hubert Phipps this year! Plans for the delivery and installation of these pieces are currently underway.
- Well-loved *Marmeg* in Leavitt Park has reached the end of its time with us in Flossmoor. This cheerful, red sculpture will be leaving the park later this spring. A new sculpture, *Eternal Flame*, will be installed by Michigan-based artist Fritz Olsen for a three-year term. Stay tuned to ArtFlossmoor.com for installation information and special opportunities in 2024!

Artists Wanted

The Public Art Commission is looking for creative artists and residents of all abilities to create garden art (think flower pots, bird baths, bird feeders and lawn ornaments) for its 2024 Garden Art Auction & Fundraiser. Artists will create special pieces, then pictures of the art will be posted online for a virtual auction. All proceeds will go to keeping public art blooming in Flossmoor. For artist application or for more information, please visit ArtFlossmoor.com. Artist application deadline is March 31.



Volunteers Needed for Clean Up

It is nearly time to get our community's green spaces ready for spring! The Green Commission needs your help to clean up Flossmoor. Join with other volunteers on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m.-Noon for the Southland Community Clean-Up, sponsored by the Chicago Southland Green Committee. Volunteers will meet in the Meijer parking lot for instructions and safety.

Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Michelle Nelson

Greetings, neighbors! Flossmoor residents did not hibernate this winter! Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service, allowed us to share their story during Black History Month, celebrated the Lunar New Year, and supported local charities and our schools. Our inclusive efforts bring us closer together and have a far-reaching, positive impact.

I am excited to be celebrating our 100th birthday with you! Throughout the year, we will be highlighting our impressive history, including achievements of our residents and people who have contributed to our success. Additionally, our events will focus on several values that have served us well over the years, which include sustainability, volunteerism, education, family and support of local businesses. I am also working with the Foundation for the Preservation of Flossmoor History to collect artifacts and stories and create a multifaceted community space that will showcase our history and inspire our promising future. If you would like to contribute to the collection or effort, please email flossmoorhistory@gmail.com.

Springtime means construction will begin on several infrastructure projects, including replacement of a bridge on Brookwood Drive, which was funded through an IDOT grant, and reconstruction of the worst-rated road in our Village: Brumley Drive. We are continuing to work on the long-awaited and highly anticipated Flossmoor Road Viaduct Project. Please keep an eye out for potential road closures and use caution in work zones. For updates, please visit the Construction Projects section of our website: www.flossmoor.org/325/Construction-Projects.

In the spirit of celebrating history, Brumley Drive was

named after Flossmoor's first mayor, Daniel Joseph (D.J.) Brumley. Mayor Brumley was a civil engineer and spent his career working on railroad construction and maintenance. He eventually became the Chief Engineer for the Illinois Central Railroad and is credited with playing a major role in the reconstruction and electrification of their Chicago Terminal, which we know as Metra Electric. This was a four-year project that was completed in 1926 and cost approximately \$68 million. However, it eliminated locomotive steam pollution and at-grade crossings for the southern line, which greatly improved safety and efficiency. Locally, Mayor Brumley served on the Board of Directors of Flossmoor SD161 and Flossmoor State Bank and was a charter member of Flossmoor Community Church. He lived at 911 Bruce Avenue and enjoyed gardening and photography in his spare time.

Village staff has already begun working on our capital improvements agenda for 2025 grants. Federal and state grants bring tax money back to Flossmoor to help fund necessary infrastructure repairs. This approach allows us to complete more work and reduces pressure on our annual budget. The Village Board and staff are also working hard to bring economic development to southwest Flossmoor and Flossmoor Road. Interest in Village-owned land has increased, thanks to a broadened outreach effort. Last fall the *Chicago Tribune* featured a story about our continuing effort to attract a Trader Joe's. If you would like to help, please visit its website and request a Flossmoor location. If you have a business suggestion or idea to share, please email info@flossmoor.org.

Spring cleanups, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the start of the Flossmoor Baseball & Softball (FBBSBA) season are just around the corner. Thank you to everyone who is "pitching" in this spring to enhance the beauty of our Village and youth programming. I look forward to seeing you at our spring events, including FBBSBA Opening Day on Saturday, April 20! Play ball!