

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Fall 2024
Volume 34 / Number 2



NEW FEST COMES TO FLOSSMOOR

Flossmoor will celebrate nature, trees — such as these oak seedlings grown from Flossmoor acorns — and community spirit at its first OAKtoberfest event on Saturday, Sept. 28! See details on page 3.

Kegs & Eggs

Wrap up the 5th Hidden Gem Half Marathon with a party in downtown Flossmoor immediately following the race on Sept. 7.
Page 4

Police Personnel

Meet Flossmoor's Director of Police Services and its newest Police Officers.
Page 10

Green Flourishing

Learn all about the Green Commission's recent work.
Page 5

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
#Flossmooris100

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. 7

Hidden Gem Half Marathon — 7:30 a.m. / Throughout Flossmoor
The fifth Hidden Gem Half Marathon will feature 1,200+ runners traversing the 13.1-mile course through Flossmoor's lovely neighborhoods.

Saturday, Sept. 7

Kegs & Eggs — 10 a.m. / Downtown Flossmoor
After conquering the Gem or after cheering on your friends and family, join us for a post-race celebration for all! Indulge in mouthwatering brunch items from our vendors, sip beverages and dance to music spun by our DJ.

Thursday, Sept. 19

National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration — 6-7 p.m. / Flossmoor Public Library. Join us for a special performance and games!

Saturday, Sept. 21

Recyclepalooza — 9 a.m.-Noon / Parker Junior High School Lot
Gather your recyclables and stop by! Visit www.Flossmoor.org for a full list of accepted items.

Saturday, Sept. 28

OAKtoberfest — 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 4-9 p.m. / Flossmoor Park & South Commuter Lot. Join us for a full day of celebrating nature and community spirit with activities for all ages. During the day, enjoy nature-themed programming and tree walks in Flossmoor Park. Then as the sun sets, get ready to party at our music festival! Enjoy a live band, delicious fall foods and beverages.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Fall Tree Planting — 8-11 a.m. / Parker Jr. High Lot
Meet at Village Hall to partner with Public Works to plant baby trees around the Village. Volunteer form at www.Flossmoor.org.

Saturday, Oct. 26

Pet Parade & Costume Contest — 3 p.m. / Flossmoor Park
Dress your four-legged friends in their best Halloween costume, then parade them through Flossmoor "Bark" (Park) where judges will pick their favorites. Co-sponsored by the Flossmoor Business Association.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Halloween Trick-or-Treating — 3-7 p.m. / Flossmoor
Trick-or-treat hours around the Village today are from 3-7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2

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 H-F Area Green Committee.



OAKtoberfest Highlights

- Guided Nature Walk
- Kids' Activities & Green Demonstrations in Flossmoor Park
- Food, beer, wine and music, featuring the band Tributosaurus.

OAKTOBERFEST: CELEBRATING NATURE, MUSIC & FUN

A part of what puts the “Beautiful” in Flossmoor’s tagline — “Welcoming. Beautiful. Connected.” — is its lush tree canopy, so ubiquitous it could be called an urban forest. Here are some facts:

- There are approximately 7,100 trees in Village parkways and Village-owned properties. (This does not include the hundreds of trees growing on private properties, schools or parks.)
- The Public Works Department, Green Commission and community volunteers have planted 700+ new trees in the past five years.
- Approximately 125 different types of trees can be found in the Village.
- Flossmoor’s oldest trees are located on Dartmouth Road, the Braeburn-Brassie area and around Butterfield Creek.
- Flossmoor has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for seven consecutive years.
- The Village received a Tree City USA Growth Award in 2023 for demonstrating environmental improvement and an outstanding level of tree care.
- Plant the Gem — a community-wide tree-planting event, held in October 2022, which involved the planting of 300 trees in one day — was a 2023 Governor’s Hometown Award finalist at the Illinois State Fair.

When looking to reimagine special events for Flossmoor’s Centennial this year, it was an easy jump to consider a happening that would celebrate something that already brings residents together: our Village’s trees.

“A nature-focused community event serves as a gentle reminder of our place in the ecosystem and allows us to step away from our electronic devices and reconnect with the earth and each other,” says Stephanie Wright, Community Engagement Manager.

Dive into the wonders of nature at OAKtoberfest on Saturday, Sept. 28! The Village will offer a full day of celebrating nature, trees and community spirit with activities for all ages.

During the day, explore guided nature walks led by the Flossmoor Arborist Dave Becker, discovering our local ecosystem’s diverse tree canopy and native flowers. Participate in interactive workshops and demonstrations by community partners, such as the Chicago Region Trees Initiative and the University of Illinois Extension, focusing on sustainable living practices, organic gardening and more. Kids will enjoy nature-themed programming just for them in Flossmoor Park, led by nature centers and the Homewood Science Center.

As the sun sets, get ready to party at the inaugural OAKtoberfest Music Festival! Enjoy live performances by talented musicians, including Tributosaurus. Adults can indulge in delicious food and sip refreshing beverages under our OAKtoberfest party tent.

“This event will bring you live music that will have you dancing, a cozy bonfire to gather around, refreshing drinks and the chance to taste your way through Flossmoor’s culinary scene,” says Wright. “OAKtoberfest will be the beginning of a fantastic fall season in Flossmoor.”



PHOTO BY JOHN KELLY

FIVE YEARS AND RUNNING FOR THE HIDDEN GEM; FIRST YEAR FOR KEGS & EGGS

While the Village of Flossmoor is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2024, another event in town is also celebrating a milestone: the Hidden Gem Half Marathon will host its fifth 13.1-mile race on Saturday, Sept. 7. More than 1,200 runners will embark on a road race throughout the Village that morning in an event named the Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) Race of the Year for two consecutive years.

Race kicks off at 7:30 a.m. on Flossmoor Road in front of IJP School and will end in downtown Flossmoor, along Sterling Avenue. Following the race, spectators, volunteers and runners are invited to celebrate together with Kegs & Eggs, a new Village event held between the downtown traffic circle and the south Flossmoor Public Library lawn from approximately 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Indulge in mouthwatering brunch items from vendors, sip refreshing beverages — including the annual exclusive Hidden Gem brew from Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery — and dance to music spun by our DJ in the heart of Flossmoor. Food highlights include steak & egg sliders from the Bistro, Italian beef from Buona Beef, breakfast tacos from Flossmoor Station, plus specials from Dunning's Gourmet Market, D's Cookie Dough Co., Rainbow Cone, Kona Ice and Cork Wine & Gaming.

Residents should note that there will be a series of rolling road closures on this day (Sept. 7). There will be a period

of “soft” closures and 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. 6, allowing residents to leave a car outside of the closure area for easy access in the morning. Visit the Village website (www.flossmoor.org) for closure information closer to the event date, but residents can expect closures on:

- Kedzie (Flossmoor Road to 193rd St.)
- Governors Hwy. (Heather Road to Flossmoor Road)
- Flossmoor Road
- Western Ave. (Vardon Lane to Flossmoor Road)
- Braemar Road (7:45-9:45 a.m.)
- 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.)

Questions about the race? You can send an email to info@flossmoorsfuture.com.

GREEN FLOURISHES IN FLOSSMOOR

The Flossmoor Green Commission has been leading the way in our Village, sharing its enthusiasm for environmental initiatives through education, action and outreach with great reception from residents during Flossmoor's 100th year.

"The Green Commission is leaning into Flossmoor turning 100 years old, and we hope to inspire our residents in a big way this year," says Tristan Shaw, Chair of the Flossmoor Green Commission. "Our goal is to bring more awareness to all things green and to make Flossmoor a lovely, healthy place to live."

Education — For nearly a decade, Homewood-Flossmoor High School has worked to cultivate an alumni-funded community organic garden. Student-volunteers have come and gone, and high-school staff supervision has changed, but a dedicated crew of volunteers from Flossmoor has been involved since its beginning. This summer, the Green Commission stepped up to help plant, weed, engage volunteers and manage the garden. The H-F student-volunteers have planted and nurtured potatoes, tomatoes, squash, basil, zucchini, eggplant and peppers with guidance from the Green Commission.

"We are super excited to partner with H-F High School and hope to connect with students on growing healthy food," says Shaw. "Hopefully, the H-F community garden is the beginning of the next 100 years of a healthier, greener community in Flossmoor."

Action — Commissioners from the Green Commission literally have been getting their hands dirty all over town. They have been working to add native plants to Village-owned spaces around Flossmoor. Take a look at the front of Village Hall to see a special pollinator garden in what was formerly an empty drainage area, and drive around Flossmoor to see native plantings at the intersection of Burns Ave. & Park Dr. Native plantings, such as these, help support birds and pollinators, says Shaw.

"We hope to work with the Public Works Department on more traffic circles to bring awareness to the importance of native plants," he says.

The night before the Village of Flossmoor / You Matter 2 Juneteenth Parade this summer, Commissioners walked the parade route with trash bags to ensure the route was clear of any rubbish for this special day. Then, in August, the Commission partnered with the Flossmoor Public Library to gather shirts for the inaugural Spirit Wear Swap for Flossmoor School District 161 families. Residents could bring

gently used shirts from area schools to the library, so another family might make use of the shirts this school year, thereby reducing the amount of apparel waste in the community.

Flossmoor's original reducing-waste event — Recyclepalooza — will return to the Parker Junior High's parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 21. This event is an opportunity for residents to clean out their homes and garages in an environmentally responsible way (see page 7).



Above: Flossmoor Green Commissioners picked up trash along the Juneteenth Parade route on Flossmoor Road. Below: Student-volunteers work to clear a planting bed with guidance from the Flossmoor Green Commission at H-F High School's community organic garden.

Outreach — In an effort to keep Flossmoor's foliage expanding, the Green Commission has been giving away plantings to residents at events throughout this centennial year...

- 100 oak trees — grown from collected Flossmoor acorns — were distributed at Take Me Out to the Ball Game;
- 100 milkweed seedlings were given away at the IPO Chamber Night Concert; ... and coming soon:
- Commissioners will give away 100 trees at Kegs & Eggs, immediately following the Hidden Gem Half Marathon on Saturday, Sept. 7
- Commissioners will work with volunteers and the Public Works Department to plant an additional 100 trees on Saturday, Oct. 19, as a way to celebrate the Village's 100th birthday. Sign up to help at www.Flossmoor.org.

NEWS TO USE!



Volunteers Needed for Tree Planting

The July 15 tornado removed much foliage from Flossmoor's tree canopy. Also, the Village did not plant any new trees this spring due to the cicada emergence. Together this means that this year's Fall Tree Planting — set for Saturday, Oct. 19 — will be especially important. Volunteers are needed from 8-11 a.m. to plant new trees, alongside Public Works crews and Flossmoor Green Commissioners. To sign up, visit www.Flossmoor.org.

Viaduct Project: Phase 2 Near Completion

Much progress has been made on the second phase of the Village's Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvement Project, which includes the construction of an on-site storm sewer and a naturalized detention basin, located near Heather Hill Elementary School. The phase began in June with the removal of existing tennis courts then the removal and stockpiling of topsoil, which will be used during restoration. Several weeks were spent on excavation of the basin. In August, the permanent safety fence was installed and the contractor, Pan-Oceanic Engineering Co., moved on to the last step in this phase: final restoration (the installation of native and turf seeding and an erosion-control blanket) and project completion.

Remaining phases of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvement Project will be completed by fall 2025 to align with the various grants that have been secured, which has totaled \$3.9 million. The Homewood-Flossmoor Park District has already drafted plans and budgeted for replacing the Heather Hill tennis courts by adding a new tennis court and two pickleball courts for the community just south of Heather Hill Elementary School in Highlands Park. A rendering can be viewed at HFParks.com.

Free Brush Collection

The Flossmoor Public Works Department has had a very busy summer. In addition to its usual workload, crews have been cleaning up yard debris from Flossmoor's first recorded tornado, an EF-1 storm that tore through the Village on July 15. Free brush collection for single-family residential dwellings will continue through this fall. Residents are invited to place branches out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on Monday of the scheduled week. Collection will take place from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays the following weeks: Sept. 9-13 and Oct. 7-11.

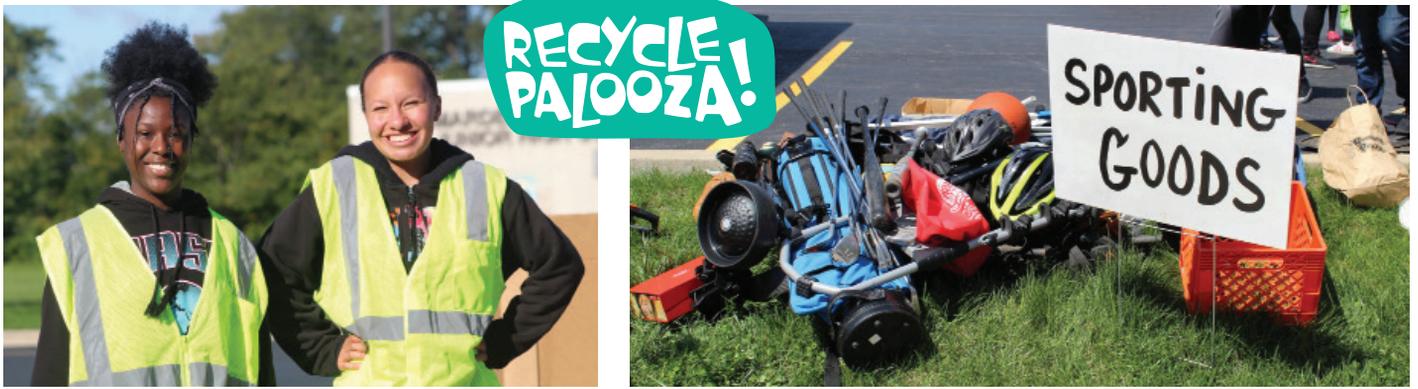
Fall Leaf Collection Changes

While free brush collection is continuing, the Village is ending its free leaf collection service, typically offered in November. This program, offered since 2019, is being discontinued for budgetary reasons. Residents are encouraged to mulch or compost their leaves to improve the soil in their yards. If you prefer to rake and bag leaves, please contact your private refuse company (Homewood Disposal or Republic Services) for collection requirements (i.e., bags and stickers).



Brumley Drive Rebuilt

This summer in Old Flossmoor Brumley Drive — one of the Village's oldest streets — was completely rebuilt and curbs were created from Perth Avenue to Bruce Avenue. A large-scale storm sewer was also added to help alleviate flooding in this neighborhood. Stay informed on Village construction projects via this webpage: www.Flossmoor.org/325/Construction-Projects.



Get Ready to Recycle & Donate: Sept. 21

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 home for all types of recyclable items and bring them to Recyclepalooza on Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-Noon in the Parker Junior High School parking lot. New this year: For a small fee, cans of latex paint (\$2-\$20) and spray paint (\$1) will also be accepted by Flat Can Recycling, one of the leading latex paint recyclers in the Midwest. A full list of recyclable items will be posted at www.Flossmoor.org, but they include:

- Electronics
- Metals
- Legos
- Bicycles
- Pop Tops
- Razors
- Eyeglasses
- Trophies
- Flags

Back-to-School Time

Classes resumed for the 2024-25 school year in mid-August, and you may have already noticed an uptick in traffic. Be prepared for busier mornings and afternoons, including frequently stopping buses. The Police Department's patrol officers will be on high alert for moving violations — especially in school zones and neighborhoods — and identifying drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians, be sure to look both ways and only cross streets at designated crosswalks. School zones drop the speed limit down to 20 MPH on school days from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. when students are present; fines are higher when you speed in a school zone, so be sure to take it slow to make coming and going to school as safe as possible. All of Flossmoor's schools offer events that residents are invited to enjoy throughout the school year, such as concerts, plays and sporting competitions, and Flossmoor's grammar schools are in need of adult volunteers at lunchtime and recess. The high school offers a special program for seniors ages 62+ — Golden Card Club — that grants them free admission to many events all year long. Learn more about our schools and see event calendars at their district websites: HFHighSchool.org and SD161.org. Welcome back to school!

- Sporting Goods
- Bread Tags
- Gently Used Clothing
- Small Household Items
- Mascara Wands
- Styrofoam (no packing peanuts)
- Oral Care Products & Packaging
- Ink/Laser Jet Printers
- Plastic Gift Cards
- Travel-Sized Toiletries
- Towels & Blankets
- TVs (\$20/set)

In addition to collecting recyclable items, volunteers from the Community Relations Commission will be collecting donations for Anew: Building Beyond Violence & Abuse during Recyclepalooza. Needed supplies include new toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby diapers/wipes and gift cards. Based in Homewood, Anew provides comprehensive services for those impacted by domestic violence.



FLOSSMOOR
Celebrating Our Centennial!

Thank You to our Centennial Sponsors

VIP Sponsors:

Eyes on Sterling; Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery; Kathleen Field Orr; UChicago Medicine

Connected Sponsors:

Meijer; Prairie State College

Beautiful Sponsors:

Bank Financial; Bloom Township; The Center for Dental Excellence; Comcast; Flossmoor Animal Hospital; Foundation for the Preservation of Flossmoor History; Governors State University; Leland Grove Law, LLC; Nicor Gas; Rich Township Supervisor Calvin Jordan & Clerk Sugar Al-Amin; Southland Smiles

business spotlight

Businesses continue to grow and thrive in our Village. There is room for more! Are you looking to open or expand your business? Check out Flossmoor's available properties and retail trade information at www.Retail360.us/Flossmoor-Illinois.



Creed II

Your food options are expanding in Flossmoor! The Village welcomed soul-food restaurant Creed II (3331 Vollmer Road) to Flossmoor Commons in May. Chef-owners Tina and Erwin McKennie are ready to welcome you with a plate of wings, fried catfish, smothered pork chops or a bowl of seafood gumbo (offered on specific days of the week). Special side dishes include black-eyed peas, mac & cheese, yams and cornbread dressing. Check them out for lunch or dinner Mondays-Thursdays Noon-9 p.m.; Fridays & Saturdays Noon-Midnight; and Sundays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Carryout and event rentals are also offered; discounts are given to senior citizens and military veterans.

You can top off your lunch or dinner with a unique Chicago creation, now available in Flossmoor. The Village's newest ice cream shop — Original Rainbow Cone — opened for business on July 3. The lucky first 50 customers that day were treated to a free cone. In case you're not familiar with this frozen specialty, a Rainbow Cone is five layers of sliced ice cream: Orange Sherbet, Pistachio, Palmer House, Strawberry and Chocolate. The shop now also offers other sliced creations, such as Chocolate Obsession, Minty City and Cosmic Birthday, along with shakes, sundaes and ice-cream cakes at 19805 S. Crawford Ave. (next to Buona Beef). Hours are 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays, and from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays.



Rainbow Cone

Also new to the Village as of June 5 is a free food pantry, open to residents of Flossmoor, Chicago Heights, Hazel Crest and Homewood, as well as unhoused individuals. Located inside Calvary Assembly of God (18620 Governors Highway) and managed by Pastors John and Rebecca Husbands, the pantry is open three days per week: Wednesdays & Fridays from 3-7 p.m. and from 9 a.m.-Noon on Thursdays. The Husbands have partnered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to bring this new service to the South Suburbs. Pantry visitors can shop with dignity, choosing their own perishable and non-perishable food items, and, oftentimes, also clothing and other special items. Volunteers and donations are always welcome, the Husbands say. To volunteer or for more information, visit www.CalvaryFlossmoor.com/Pantry.



Calvary Assembly of God Food Pantry

school spotlight

Standards-Based Grading at SD 161

August signifies the start of the 2024-25 school year, and Flossmoor School District 161 is excited for the return of students, families and staff. While school districts serve a number of roles in our community, the district's primary responsibility is to help our students reach beyond their potential and to prepare them for a vibrant and innovative future. To accomplish these goals, the district focuses on three main areas: curriculum, instruction and assessment. For curriculum, materials have been steadily updated, so that they are current and representative of our community. In the area of instruction, the district is using research-based strategies to increase the effectiveness of classroom experiences. The district is now ready to take its assessment process to the next level by implementing standards-based grading.

This school year, SD 161 is moving away from traditional "A, B, C, D, U" grades and moving towards using specific learning standards to identify the strengths, weaknesses and next steps for students. For example, think about a time when the "Check Engine" light came on in your car. When you see that light, you know there is a problem (i.e. receiving a D or U grade), but you do not have enough information to fix it. Once you take your car to the mechanic and receive the report stating your battery is fine and your tires are filled, but your transmission needs to be repaired, you can take the necessary steps to fix the issue. From an educational standpoint, teachers know the standards and expectations that students need to meet by the end of each grade level. Standards-based grading will provide transparency to our students and families, so that they are aware of the specific learning targets and the steps needed to reach those goals.

Standards-based grading uses a 4-point scale to measure a student's mastery of a standard or learning target. The quarterly report cards will list the standards that are taught and assessed during the marking period and families will know exactly what students need to learn to improve. Skills such as study habits and behavior will be reported separately as "learner behaviors." Learner behaviors are the essential habits that all students need to develop to be successful in school and life.

As the research on learning and instruction has developed over the years, it has become clear that when students have clearly defined instructional targets and they receive actionable feedback on their progress toward that target, academic growth and achievement will increase. During the past year, teachers and administrators at SD 161 have been identifying priority standards, aligning curriculum materials, and refining common assessments to prepare for this change. While letter grades will no longer be represented on the school report card, they will be replaced with specific learning standards that will improve the feedback that students receive and the instruction that they will need to reach the next level. For more information on the 4-point scale, learner behaviors and standards-based grading, please visit www.sd161.org.

What is Standards-Based Grading?

Standards-Based learning and grading measures students' progress towards mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards.

What are "learner behaviors"?

Learning behaviors are the good habits all students need to be successful in school.

- Participate in class
- Uses time wisely
- Works well independently
- Writes neatly
- Completes homework on time
- Works well with others
- Seeks assistance when needed

SD 161 Grading Scale

1 Beginning Understanding of Standard



The student cannot independently demonstrate the skills/knowledge necessary to reach the learning goal.

2 Approaching Standard



The student can independently demonstrate some of the skills/knowledge necessary to reach the learning goal.

3 At Standard



The student independently and consistently demonstrates skills/knowledge necessary to show mastery of the learning goal.

4 Exceeding



The student demonstrates in-depth skills/knowledge that go beyond the learning goal.

Grades should be:

- Consistent
- Specific
- Timely
- Accurate

Scan for more information!



flossmoor faces & places

Meet Carl Estelle, Director of Police Services



Carl Estelle

In August, Flossmoor welcomed a new leader to its Police Department: Carl Estelle has been named Director of Police Services.

Estelle, a

Flossmoor resident since 2017, comes to the Village with more than 30 years of proven leadership in law enforcement and management. Most recently, he served as the City Administrator of Country Club Hills and the Director of Security Operations and Compliance for the City Colleges of Chicago Safety and Security Department.

“Estelle’s proven leadership and management skills, along with his immense experience in law enforcement, will be an asset to the Village of Flossmoor,” says Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson. “I am confident that Carl Estelle is the person Flossmoor needs for the job today; we are excited to have him on our team.”

Estelle has decades of progressive experience in law enforcement, community policing and collaborative public-safety practices. His experience includes several years as an investigator and as the supervisor of investigations. Specifically, he served six years as Captain of Police for the city of East Palo Alto, Calif. Prior to that, he had served 11 years as the Special Agent Supervisor for the California Department of Justice, where he was commander of the security detail for the state’s Attorney General, as well as the task force commander responsible for directing criminal investigations. His law-enforcement career began as a Police Officer for the city of Oakland, Calif., where he spent more than a decade patrolling neighborhoods and working in the Special Duty Unit and with the Drug Enforcement Agency Task Force.

Estelle is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. This prestigious program included advanced leadership and communications training, as well as fitness challenges for participants. Throughout his law-enforcement career, Estelle

received numerous awards from the FBI, DEA, US Customs and Border Protection, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, the International Narcotics Officers Association, the Western States Information Network and the United States Attorney’s Office.

Estelle will now serve as Flossmoor’s Director of Police Services, a position that also encompasses being the Coordinator of the Village’s Emergency Management Agency, where he will work with the Flossmoor Fire Department in the training and deployment of the Emergency Operations Plan and Incident Action Plans. His position will be redefined as the Flossmoor Chief of Police after the completion of the Out-of-State Reciprocity program, through which his California-based certifications and experience will be transferred to Illinois. At that time, he will be recognized as a sworn officer, allowing him to assume the Police Chief position.

“I have a passion for law enforcement, and I am eager to return to it, especially for my hometown.”

New Officers in Police Department

Flossmoor has two new, full-time police officers to protect and serve its residents.

Police Officer Nicholas Mayden took his oath to the community on April 15. A graduate of H-F High School, Lexus College and the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy, he began working for the Village first as a Community Service Officer in 2022. He completed his field training in December 2023 and began solo patrols as an officer on March 25.

Police Officer Charea Reynolds was sworn in as the Department’s first lateral police officer and its first African American female officer on June 3. Officer Reynolds came to Flossmoor with more than six years of experience with the Chicago Police Department and an associate’s degree from Moraine Valley Community College. She began solo patrols in Flossmoor on May 31, and she is currently completing a bachelor’s degree at Governors State University.



commission corner

Public Art Additions & Improvements

Thanks to donations from artists and local art supporters, Flossmoor's collection of public art grew and improved this summer. Chicago-based artist William O'Brien came to the Village in May to place three related sculptures together at the southeast corner of Flossmoor Park. Located at Brassie Avenue and Flossmoor Road, O'Brien's donation of *Blue Moon*, *The Purple Rising* and *Spine, Spindle, Heart* add vibrancy to the corner of a busy, active recreation area in Flossmoor. The three powder-coated steel sculptures — generously donated by the artist — were made from reclaimed metal that survived a fire in O'Brien's Chicago studio in 2012. He said to him they are symbols of triumph and renewal.

At the west end of Flossmoor in Ballantrae Park, there now resides a 9-ft. bronze sculpture that is reminiscent of the landscape of America's West: *Paradise*, created by late artist Hubert Phipps. Phipps had said that the piece evokes the natural wonder and other-worldliness that he found in places out west, such as in Monument National Park. Flossmoor was fortunate to accept the sculpture as a permanent donation from the artist's estate in late May.

In addition to these new pieces, two sculptures were refurbished. Scott McMillin's sculpture, *Minions*, in Leavitt Park now features a completely rebuilt wooden base on a newly poured concrete pad. Its stainless-steel chairs have been carefully reassembled and secured, so this permanent-collection piece can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Kinetic Vision — built by H-F High School students and their teacher, Greg Petecki — had taken up residence in front of the Flossmoor Public Library in 2016. This summer it was relocated to a new concrete pad at the corner of Lawrence and Scott Crescents to bring art to the front of Heather Hill Elementary School. Students at the school selected a new hue for the piece, reminiscent of their school colors: Goldfinch Yellow. It will reside at its new location through 2027.

These improvements and additions were made possible in part by funds raised through the Flossmoor Public Art Commission's Garden Art Online Auction, where more than 35 pieces of unique yard art had been donated then bid on by art aficionados. Professional and amateur artists who made this auction possible through their donated works were: Nancy Burrows, Molly Deugaw, Hollee Gaytan, Camryn Humble, Jodie Lawrence, Lazaro LoGalbo, Sofia LoGalbo, Kellie Lucas, Morgan McCarthy, Michelle Nelson, Erik O'Brien, William O'Brien, Fritz Olsen, Bredia Santoro, Lawrence Szymanski and Jason Verbeek.



PAC Chair Nancy Burrows and Vice Chair Jeff Stevenson visit Hubert Phipps' *Paradise* in Ballantrae Park.



Blue Moon*, *The Purple Rising* and *Spine, Spindle, Heart



Minions



Kinetic Vision

Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Michelle Nelson

Hello, Friends & Neighbors! I hope you had a wonderful summer. Thanks to all who joined us at events to celebrate history, and a variety of events that celebrated the arts and local causes this summer. For those of you with children or college students, I hope the start of the school year has been successful!

Speaking of the start of the school year, please use added caution as you are driving

around town by observing the posted school speed limit signs and crossing guards at several of our major intersections and schools. Many of our families and students enjoy walking or biking to school, which means a higher number of pedestrians are traveling along our sidewalks. Thank you for doing your part to help our children get safely to and from school.

This summer has been especially busy for our Public Works Department, which — in addition to regular maintenance projects — is nearing completion of several major infrastructure projects that include a new Brookwood bridge, sidewalk squares, a reconstructed Brumley Drive, several resurfaced roads and crack-sealing, and the second phase of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvement Project, which includes the Heather Hill naturalized detention basin. We completed long-awaited infrastructure projects, thanks to your support and increased efforts to obtain county, state and federal grants. Thank you for your patience throughout the duration of these projects, which will improve public access and safety.

Additionally, Flossmoor made history when we experienced our first-ever documented tornado (since when records were kept in 1950) on July 15. Thank you to residents who were able to move yard debris to the parkway and help

neighbors with limited mobility, and an extra thank you to Public Works crews who worked for weeks to clear parkways and sweep the streets. It was a great team effort!

Next summer, thanks to more than \$1.2 million in grant funds, we will begin a historic project to renovate our downtown area, improving the safety and beauty of the central part of our Village. The persistence of multiskilled staff and grant funds allows us to do more work using less tax dollars. Please get involved or stay in the know by attending a future Village Board meeting and following updates on social media and in our biweekly newsletters.

Now that the cicadas have subsided, we are looking forward to getting back to our seasonal tree-planting program. Planting trees is a great way to meet other residents and our knowledgeable staff. Please follow enews messages to be alerted about the volunteer sign-up. You can register for enews via the Village website or email info@flossmoor.org with “sign me up” as the subject.

We aren't done celebrating our centennial yet! We are looking forward to a new event — OAKtoberfest on Saturday, September 28 — and are excited about end-of-year events for Hispanic Heritage Month, Small Business Saturday, Holiday Lights Parade and other opportunities we will have to gather.

I'm looking forward to the 5th Hidden Gem Half Marathon on Saturday, September 7. This event draws an international crowd of runners to experience the beauty and spirit of our community. Out of thousands of races throughout Chicagoland annually, our race has been awarded Race of the Year by the Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) for two years in a row! Will this year complete the three-peat? I am confident that it will with your continued support throughout the route. Thank you to the hundreds of planners, volunteers, and professionals who make our community shine bright for this event!

As always, please continue to support our local organizations and businesses, and most importantly, each other.