



FLOSSMOOR

Welcoming. Beautiful. Connected.



Flossmoor's small business owners welcome you to the new downtown!

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Michelle Nelson, *Mayor*
mnelson@flossmoor.org

Gary Daggett, *Trustee*
gdaggett@flossmoor.org

Kevin Dorsey, *Trustee*
kdorsey@flossmoor.org

George Lofton, *Trustee*
glofton@flossmoor.org

James Mitros, *Trustee*
mitros@flossmoor.org

Rosalind Mustafa, *Trustee*
rmustafa@flossmoor.org

Dr. Carolyn Rodgers, *Trustee*
croddgers@flossmoor.org

Cecil Porter, *Village Clerk*
cporter@flossmoor.org

Bridget Wachtel, *Village Manager*
bwachtel@flossmoor.org

MEETING INFO

All meetings are held at Village Hall; Village Board meetings are also viewable via Zoom.

Village Board of Trustees
1st & 3rd Mondays of the Month at 7 p.m.

Community Relations Commission
4th Monday of the Month at 6:30 p.m.

Green Commission
3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 p.m.

Plan Commission
3rd Thursday of the Month at 6 p.m.

Public Art Commission
2nd Monday of the Month at 6:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals
4th Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 p.m.

CONTACT US

Village Hall: 708-798-2300

Fire Department: 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

Emergencies: 911

2 • FLOSSMOOR NEWS Winter 2025/26

Mayor's Message

After a gorgeous fall, the holidays are here! Flossmoor has a great series of events to help us celebrate, starting with our tree lighting and Small Business Saturday. Please also join us in Flossmoor Park for our nightly menorah lightings during Hanukkah and kinara lightings during Kwanzaa. These are special opportunities for us to celebrate and learn about the beliefs and cultures that contribute to the fabric of our Village.

It has been quite a year! We continue to make great strides in grant work, infrastructure repair, economic development, staffing, operations and volunteerism!

We moved forward with several **grant-funded projects**, including the Downtown Streetscape and upcoming Phase 4 of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Project, scheduled for spring. We also received additional grants to replace a pedestrian bridge and complete the last phase of the viaduct project. We will continue to lobby state and federal legislators for funds to serve you!

We welcomed **new businesses** this year, including two new hot spots: Beyond Borders Café and Flossmoor Social. We are also under contract with three developers to develop restaurant, entertainment and residential spaces on vacant Village-owned properties.

Regarding **staffing and operations**, our Police Department has made great strides under the leadership of Chief Estelle. After years of vacancies, we have a full staff and have expanded targeted enforcement to improve safety. The Village was awarded a 47th GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, and the Finance Department is adding more online payment opportunities.

Volunteerism is stronger than ever. The Community Relations Commission continues to serve the community with long-time favorites, such as the Dr. MLK Day of Service; this year, they also created a new event that highlights our incredible neighbors: Good Neighbor Week. The Green Commission worked with staff and volunteers to plant nearly 100 trees in October. Last, the Art Commission welcomed four rotational sculptures, thanks to donations from our residents.

One of my favorite events this year was a public tour of the only Frank Lloyd Wright home in the South Suburbs, which is located in Flossmoor! The tour was organized by the Foundation for the Preservation of Flossmoor History to raise funds to create a multi-faceted civic space at 2709 Flossmoor Road. It drew national interest and attracted first-time visitors to Flossmoor from as far away as Buffalo, NY! Events such as these help spread the message that Flossmoor is the place to be for families and businesses!



Mayor Michelle Nelson



Customers enjoy coffee and treats in downtown Flossmoor.

2025: Year in Review

Projects and additions revitalized downtown, plus there were plenty of opportunities to connect

From service events to new business openings, Flossmoor has experienced a year full of positive change and engagement.

January — Despite the freezing weather, the 10th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service brought warmth and goodwill. New projects, such as the Flossmoor Firebirds' used sporting goods collection and a Green Commission sustainability craft project, showcased the Village's commitment to service and sustainability. A joyful Lunar New Year event was held at the Flossmoor Public Library.

February — Black History Month highlighted local leaders of non-profit organizations. The Community Relations Commission (CRC) took strides towards inclusivity by updating its Purpose & Intent. A key highlight this month was also the appointment of Carl Estelle as the Chief of Po-

lice. New businesses, Perceptions Plus and Pinki's Beauty Salon, opened at the Shops on Sterling.

March — The St. Patrick's Day parade brought residents together in the Flossmoor Park neighborhood, while advancements in technology enabled residents to renew vehicle stickers and pet licenses online.

April — The community came together for a spring clean-up. The Village welcomed new residents at a meet-and-greet, while the Flossmoor Baseball & Softball season kicked off with a parade. New businesses, the Balloon Bar and the Eclectic Artistry Boutique, opened. It was also announced that Flossmoor received a 2024 Tree City USA award.

May — Mayor Michelle Nelson, Trustee Gary Daggett and Clerk Gina LoGalbo took the oath of

office for their second terms. New Trustees Kevin Dorsey and Carolyn Rodgers joined the Board. The Illinois Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration toured Flossmoor's downtown businesses. Police met with residents at Rainbow Cone and raised money for Special Olympics at Dunkin' Donuts. The Green Commission taught H-F students how to plant in a community garden.

June — Construction projects, including Phase 3 of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Improvement and Downtown Streetscape, began. Construction didn't stop the celebrations, however. The Juneteenth Parade rolled down Flossmoor Road, and the Village joined with Homewood and the H-F Park District to host Pride Night.

July — For the first time, the Children's Bicycle Parade traveled through the viaduct, ending in Flossmoor Park. Cecil Porter was sworn in as Village Clerk, and the CRC hosted a Christmas in July Toy Drive. The month concluded with a sculpture walk, showcasing new additions to the Village's rotational collection.

continued on p. 4



A family waits for cyclists on July 4.

continued from p. 3

August - A coffee shop came to Downtown Flossmoor: Beyond Borders Café. Residents enjoyed the National Night Out, which included an exciting visit from a UCAN helicopter. The Public Art Commission organized a community art project, centered around the sculpture *Ten Thousand Ripples* in Leavitt Park. The month ended with a Back-to-School Bash, helping families reconnect before the new school year.

September — The Village hosted an event every Saturday! The 6th Hidden Gem Half Marathon saw a record number of runners, who celebrated with the community at Kegs & Eggs. Hispanic Heritage Month and environmental initiatives, such as the Repair Café and Recyclepalooza, emphasized Flossmoor's commitment to inclusion and sustainability. Also, this month, the CRC invited residents to #LoveFlossmoor by doing good deeds for their neighbors.

October — The 2nd Annual OAKtoberfest brought live music and fun, such as the Flossmoor Service League Bags Tournament. Volunteers planted nearly 100 trees with help from the H-F High School Football team. The Pet Parade & Costume Contest added to the fall festivities, and the opening of Flossmoor Social provided a new gathering spot downtown.

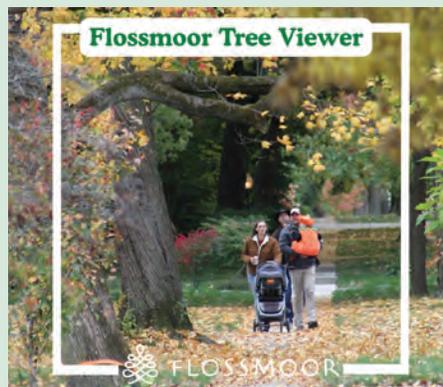
The year is not over yet – we look forward to connecting with you at events, meetings and happenings this November and December!

welcoming the news from your Village



New Park Amenities in Flossmoor

The H-F Park District has completely remodeled the playgrounds at Pheasant Trails Park (Hanover Lane & Dixie Hwy.) and Goldberg Park (3301 Flossmoor Road), which now offers unique equipment, such as a 34-ft. zip line. Other new recreation options in the Village include two new pickleball / tennis courts in Highland Park (1705 Lawrence) and a newly connected walking path that winds all the way around Leavitt Park (1010 Leavitt). Get out and enjoy these new features before the cold and snow!



Explore Flossmoor's 7,000+ Trees

Ever wonder what type of trees are growing in your parkway? Check out the Flossmoor Tree Viewer, an interactive map that shows you

information on the Village's tree canopy, available at: [Flossmoor.org/229/Village-Maps](https://flossmoor.org/229/Village-Maps)

Winter ice? Salt is not so nice

Flossmoor has adopted improved winter maintenance practices to keep roads safe, while reducing salt use to protect local waterways. Flossmoor uses techniques such as anti-icing (which requires only a quarter of the salt used in traditional de-icing) to make plowing easier. Anti-icing works by preventing snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. Each year, Public Works staff receive updated training on these best practices, and we continue improving our facility maintenance techniques to minimize salt runoff. Flossmoor is proud to participate in the Chicago Area Waterways Chloride Workgroup, established in 2021 to coordinate efforts among regional stakeholders to reduce chloride discharges and enhance water quality. Through collaboration, we can achieve greater success in protecting the rivers and streams that sustain our communities. Learn more at: CawsWatershed.org.

Downtown: Open for Business!

Downtown Flossmoor has received an update as the Village heads into its next century. Thanks in part to an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant of up to \$1,184,456, the Downtown Streetscape Project has made the area safer for residents, business owners and visitors. Traffic has been slowed by the narrowed streets and splitter islands, and crosswalks with better signage make pedestrian walkways more visible. The relocation of the U.S. mailbox away from the traffic circle and onto Central Drive has helped traffic flow. There are more bike racks for cyclists and plenty of bench seating for visiting with friends, reading or watching the day go by.

Still to come: Landscaping in the form of native plants will be added to the area in spring. Nearly 20 trees have already been planted, including Ohio Buckeyes and Kentucky Coffees. There are more than 10 large planting areas, which will be filled with shrubs, such as the



A resident enjoys a new downtown bench with his pup, Cooper.

New Jersey Tea and Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle, plus perennials including Butterfly Milkweed and Meadow Sage. This area is home to several small businesses and combined with the Flossmoor Public Library, U.S. Post Office and the Metra Station, is a hub for commuters and visitors to Flossmoor. The improvements made this year will help the area continue to safely shine and welcome all to Flossmoor.



What's New?

On October 4, the Village welcomed a new downtown business with a ribbon-cutting ceremony: **Flossmoor Social!** Located at 1040 Sterling, this new upscale spot strives to bring city-style dining to our local community. The restaurant — owned by the 7th Floor Hospitality Group — features a beautiful, lush design with special touches, such as velvet green bench seats, a private dining area and a rebuilt marble-topped bar. Flossmoor Social opened to the public on Wednesday, Oct. 22. Hours are: Sundays 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; M-F 3-10 p.m.; and Saturdays Noon-11 p.m. See menus and how to reserve your table at: FlossmoorSocial.com.

It's the season for meeting up with friends and family for dinner or drinks! Explore all of your options in Flossmoor via the Village's Online Dining Guide, available at: Flossmoor.org/479/Dining-in-Flossmoor

New Retail Options Coming to Vollmer Road

The Village is excited to announce that there are plans being made for a Vollmer outlot near the Flossmoor Meijer. Work is expected next year on two fast casual restaurants; both will be located near Crawford Avenue & Vollmer Road, pending Plan Commission review.

Choose Flossmoor!

Are you looking to open a business? Visit Flossmoor's economic development website to see available properties, retail trade area demographics and the benefits to opening your business in our welcoming, beautiful and connected Village: Retail360.us/Flossmoor-Illinois

be **connected** - upcoming happenings around Flossmoor

DECEMBER

This month Village Hall & Public Works will be closed: Wednesday, Dec. 24; Thursday, Dec. 25; and Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Saturday, Dec. 6 **HOLIDAY SING-ALONG & CRAFTS**

10 a.m.-Noon / Flossmoor Public Library

Enjoy a holiday sing-along and craft time at the library.

GINGERBREAD VILLAGE

4-6 p.m. / Flossmoor Estates

Sign up at Flossmoor.org for a one-day only tour of resident Janet Gustafson's amazing, home-made Gingerbread Village.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

H-F High School's JAZZ SHOWCASE

7 p.m. / H-F High School Mall Auditorium

Get in the swing of the winter season at this special showcase event, featuring talented student Jazz ensembles.

Thursday, Dec. 11

2nd Annual H-F HOLIDAY LIGHTS TROLLEY TOUR

5-10 p.m. / Goldberg Center

Reserve your spot at Flossmoor.org on a festive trolleys to enjoy a holiday lights ride throughout the Villages of Flossmoor and Homewood.

H-F High School's WINTER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

7 p.m. / H-F High School Mall Auditorium

Enjoy a free, instrumental holiday performance by the talented student-musicians at H-F!

Saturday, Dec. 13

SANTA'S SENIOR HELPERS

10 a.m.-1 p.m. / Coyote Run Golf Course

High school seniors can volunteer to join with senior citizens in helping Santa respond to some of his many letters. Enjoy hot chocolate, holiday music and good company. Sign up to help out at HFParks.com.



NOVEMBER

For the Thanksgiving holiday, Village Hall &

Public Works will be closed: Thursday, Nov. 27 & Friday, Nov. 28.

Saturday, Nov. 29

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

All Day / Village-Wide

Celebrate and shop Flossmoor's small businesses and all they have to offer!

Don't miss these special happenings:

- 2 p.m. — Downtown Flossmoor Grand Reopening Ribbon Cutting
- 3 p.m. - Santa arrives in Flossmoor Park
- 3-5 p.m. — Santa visits; H-F Park District holiday crafts in Park Place; fire pit, plus Flossmoor Firebirds hot chocolate & s'mores in Flossmoor Park
- 5 p.m. — Holiday caroling with H-F High School Choir students
- 5:30 p.m. — Community Tree Lighting in Flossmoor Park



Dec. 14-21

MENORAH LIGHTING

5 p.m. / Flossmoor Park
Join us for the nightly lighting of the menorah for Hanukkah in Flossmoor Park! Volunteers are needed; sign up at Flossmoor.org.

Sunday, Dec. 14

H-F Park District's SKATE WITH SANTA

1-3 p.m. / H-F Ice Arena
Enjoy open skate with free hot chocolate and pictures with Santa on ice! Fee: \$6/person.



H-F High School's HOLIDAY CONCERTS

2 p.m. & 6 p.m. / H-F High School Auditorium
Get into the spirit of the season with free concerts at H-F! Band performs at 2 p.m., then Choir follows at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

H-F Park District's PUP PICS WITH ST. NICK

5-7 p.m. / Park Place
Bring your pup to Park Place in Flossmoor Park for a photo with St. Nick! Fee: \$10/resident dog.



Dec. 18-21

Irons Oaks' LIGHT UP TRAIL WALK

6-8 p.m. / Irons Oaks
Take a winter stroll through the woods at Irons Oaks, decorated with festive lights for the holidays! Your admission (\$5 at the door) also includes hot chocolate and s'mores.

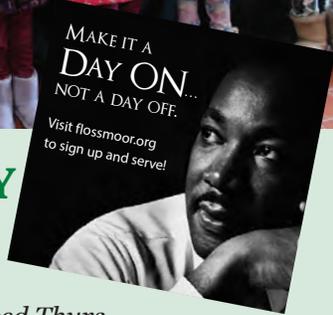
Thursday, Dec. 18 HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE

4:30 p.m. / Village-wide
Flossmoor Police, Fire and Public Works travel through the neighborhoods with their vehicles adorned with holiday displays. View the map at Flossmoor.org.

Dec. 26-Jan. 1

KINARA LIGHTING

5 p.m. / Flossmoor Park
Join us for the nightly lighting of the kinara for Kwanzaa in Flossmoor Park! Volunteers are needed; sign up at Flossmoor.org.



JANUARY

This month Village Hall & Public Works will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1, and Monday, Jan. 19.

Monday, Jan. 19

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

All Day / Village-Wide
Join in Flossmoor's community-wide day of service! Project site hosts are needed for this signature volunteer event. Can you organize a neighborhood clean-up? Offer a free workshop? Gather neighbors together to help area seniors? Contact us at 708-335-5472 or info@flossmoor.org. Or sign up your project at Flossmoor.org.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb. 14 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

10 a.m. / Flossmoor Public Library
Celebrate the Lunar New Year: the Year of the Horse with games, crafts, music and stories at the library!

See more happenings & events at DiscoverFlossmoor.com!

Summer Construction Wrap Up



The sanitary sewer line that was under the Civic Center building was relocated this summer.

Besides the Downtown Streetscape Project (see p. 5), there were many other Village improvements that kept our Public Works Department hopping this summer, including:

Phase 3 of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvement Project — This phase included the installation of a large-scale storm sewer on Lawrence Crescent, from the Heather Hill Detention Basin to Maryland Avenue. The project began in June, with substantial completion in August. The next phase, planned for 2026, includes the storm sewer installation on Sterling from Maryland Avenue north to Hawthorne.

Sanitary Sewer Relocation — The 15-in. sanitary sewer that ran under the Civic Center building to Sterling was relocated. It now runs from the Central Drive alley across the vacant Village-owned parcel just west of 2609 Flossmoor Road, out to Flossmoor Road, and east to the existing sewer at Flossmoor Road and Sterling Avenue. This will provide the Village with improved access for future maintenance.

Sidewalks were replaced on portions of Western Avenue, Vardon Lane and alongside Flossmoor Park, and approximately 1.46 miles of **street** were resurfaced as part of the Village's annual maintenance and improvement program.

Staying Safe: Mobile Crisis Response in Action

Since July, Flossmoor has been piloting a new crisis-response program: the co-responder model. In this model, a Mobile Crisis Response Team professional is embedded with other first responders (Police, Fire, EMS) on calls involving mental- or behavioral-health issues.

“When it is determined that a call involves a person in crisis, the goal is to get the right resources there as quickly as we can,” says Fire Chief Robert Kopec. “By participating in this program, we have the opportunity to be at the forefront of shaping positive change in emergency response.”

Mental and behavioral health-related calls for help are

up across the Southland served by Ecom and SouthCom: about 140 more calls in 2024 than in 2023.

In addition to responding to calls, licensed professionals from Flossmoor's Grand Prairie Services are available to assist residents in person on a walk-in basis at the Flossmoor Police Department lobby. They are available to help residents of all ages with a variety of needs from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“We are here to respond to those in stress, those who need emotional help, even when it's not an emergency situation,” says Joseph Thomas, Jr., director of Mobile Crisis Services for Grand Prairie. “We offer a support network to

help them find the help they need.”

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to have a presentation for your homeowner's association or community organization, please contact Info@Flossmoor.org.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a non-life threatening mental- or behavioral-health crisis, please call 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Similar to 911, when a person in need calls or texts 988 they will receive free and confidential support for themselves or their loved ones. Learn more at 988lifeline.org.





Flossmoor Commissioners promoted their projects at Kegs & Eggs.

The Green Commission has been actively involved in enhancing Flossmoor's tree canopy and inspiring young people. In September, Green Commissioners, Village staff and students from H-F High School came together to close up the school's community organic garden. This initiative was not just about tidying up; the crew also harvested potatoes that they had planted together in the spring.

A few days later, the Green Commission returned to the high school to plant new trees near the South Building. These trees were a long-awaited addition to the campus, funded by H-F Theatre students from the 2023-24 school year. By involving students in their projects, the Green Commission helps give them a sense of responsibility and connection to the environment.

The Community Relations Commission spearheaded a campaign in September to help spread random acts of kindness with its #LoveFlossmoor promotion, held during Good Neighbor

Week. The week culminated in a behind-the-scenes open house at the Flossmoor Public Library.

The **Public Art Commission** said goodbye to two sculptures, but said hello to four new ones. *To Be Set Free*, a stainless-steel sculpture made by the late artist Bruce Niemi, was installed near the South Commuter Lot in early July, replacing *Vertical Vegetation* by Jason Verbeek. It cheerfully reflects the sunrise in the morning, welcoming commuters and community members, alike.

Later in July in Leavitt Park, the Commission oversaw the installation of five "emerging Buddhas," designed by Evanston-based artist Indira Freitas Johnson as part of her *Ten Thousand Ripples* project. The artist was able to join with our Commissioners and Mayor Michelle Nelson for the install, who said they hope residents enjoy this unique collection, which reflects peacefulness and non-violence.

Santa Fe, NM-based artist Alex Barrett installed two of his biomorphic, aluminum sculptures in Flossmoor in September. The bright yellow *Cradle* replaced Sam Spiczka's *Threshold* on the east side of the Flossmoor Public Library; his

red *Ristra* was installed on a new sculpture pad, brightening up the southeast corner of Leavitt Park.

All of these new installations are part of Flossmoor's rotational collection, made possible by donations from area residents, and will stay in the Village until 2028.



you're beautiful, Flossmoor!

1. August's National Night Out included an inaugural visit from the UCAN emergency helicopter!

2. The 6th Hidden Gem Half Marathon ran throughout the Village in September with help from hundreds of volunteers.

3. The daytime part of OAKtoberfest on Oct. 4, including green exhibitors, including community partner Irons Oaks, who taught visitors about products that come from the forest.



4. The Village partnered with the Flossmoor Public Library to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month in September.

5. The party tent was filled to capacity, as friends and neighbors enjoyed each other's company — plus food, drinks and live bands — during OAKtoberfest on Oct. 4.

6. For the first time in Village history, the 4th of July Children's Bicycle Parade went through the Flossmoor Road viaduct, ending in Flossmoor Park.

7. As summer came to an end, families enjoyed fun at the Back-to-School Bash in Flossmoor Park.

8. Kegs & Eggs helped the community celebrate another successful Hidden Gem on September 6.

9. In September, residents brought their hard-to-dispose-of items to Recyclepalooza at Parker Jr. High.



FLOSSMOOR

Welcoming. Beautiful. Connected.







Village of Flossmoor
2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422



10% Recycled Fiber

*****ECRWSEDDM****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS 60422

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FLOSSMOOR, IL
PERMIT NO. 1
ECRWSS

5 THINGS TO DO THIS SEASON!



1 Shop & dine local on Small Business Saturday (November 29)



2 Ride the H-F Holiday Trolley around Flossmoor & Homewood (December 11)



3 Volunteer for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January 19)

4 Walk through a frosty winter wonderland at Irons Oaks (December 18-21)



5 Attend a free holiday concert at H-F High School (December 10, 11 & 14)

STAY CONNECTED, FLOSSMOOR!

Flossmoor Enewsletter & E-Cop Alerts



Discover Flossmoor Website



Rave / Smart 911 Emergency Alerts



Flossmoor.org • Info@Flossmoor.org • Facebook: @FlossmoorIL • Instagram: @FlossmoorVillage

This issue's cover features Downtown Flossmoor small business owners from Beyond Borders Cafe, Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl, Custom Housekeeping, D's Cookie Dough, Dunning's Market, Eyes on Sterling, Flossmoor Social, Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery, Little Fern Salon, Perception Plus, Pinki's Beauty Salon and Yesterday's Gentlemen Barbershoppe. Please support our small businesses!