

FLOSSMOOR

NEWS

Volume 20, Number 1 | Spring 2010

10 Questions 10 Minutes

2010 CENSUS

CENSUS DAY: APRIL 1, 2010

COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR CENSUS FORM BY APRIL 1st

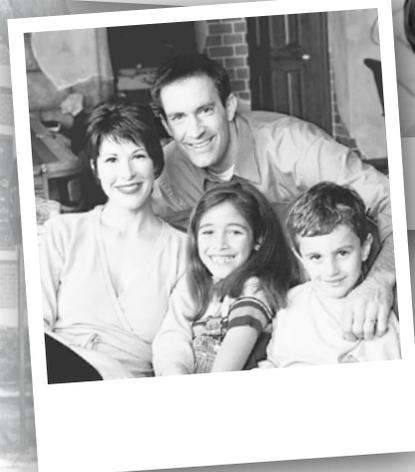


IT'S IN OUR HANDS

It's easy. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

It's important. Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more.

It's confidential. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.



United States
**Census
2010**

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VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Paul Braun
Mayor

James Crum
Trustee

Perry Hoag
Trustee

Philip Minga
Trustee

James Mitros
Trustee

James Wilder
Trustee

Diane Williams
Trustee

Pamela Nixon
Clerk

Bridget Wachtel
Village Manager

VILLAGE PHONE NUMBERS

Village Hall 798-2300

Fire 798-3885
non-emergency

Police 957-4500
non-emergency

TDD 647-0179

Public Works 957-4100

Building Department 957-4101

EMERGENCY ONLY 9-1-1

www.flossmoor.org

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

is published for residents and businesses in the Village.

Please address comments to:

Office of the Village Manager

c/o Flossmoor News
2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

To place an ad in
FLOSSMOOR NEWS
please contact

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What if No One Answered the Call?



What if you called to report a fire or other emergency and no one answered the call?

Did you know that nearly 80% of this country's fire service is volunteer?

It takes someone with a desire to do something important for the community; someone with courage and dedication, who isn't afraid of hard work, and is willing to accept the challenge of a difficult job. If you're this kind of person, you're needed as a volunteer firefighter.

Contact the Flossmoor Fire Department
at 708-798-3885

Brought to you by the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department, www.FVFD.org

DATES TO KNOW

- March 1** 2010 Vehicle Sticker and Animal Tags on Sale
- April 1** Census Day (return census form in prepaid envelope)
- April 15** Last Day to Purchase Vehicle Stickers and Display in Window before Fees Increase

April 22 Annual Diversity Dinners



April 17 Flossmoor Baseball Opening Day Parade and Ceremonies

H-F Park District's Earth Day Celebration

May 15 Lawn Sprinkling Ban Begins

May 19 Flossmoor Service League Housewalk

BUSINESSES

Your advertisements in the Flossmoor News not only support Flossmoor's newsletter, but reach directly into over 4,000 homes and businesses to help sell your merchandise, products and services.

It's good business to place an ad in the Flossmoor News.

For advertising information contact
Pam Stasil at 708.891.0744

Flossmoor Service League

ANNUAL HOUSEWALK

May 19, 2010
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tickets are \$20.

Proceeds from the Walk will go towards scholarships to charities and philanthropic organizations in the south suburbs.

For tickets or more information visit
www.flossmoorserviceleague.org.



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UNDERSTANDING THE 2010 CENSUS

Your Guide To The Census

Why Do We Take The Census?

Every decade since 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted a constitutionally mandated census to determine the number of people living within the United States and our territories.

Census affects funding in our community.

Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period. Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help ensure your community gets its fair share of federal and state funding.

Census affects your voice in Congress.

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is also used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to redistrict state legislatures.

Census affects your representation in state and local government. Census data is used to define legislative districts, school district assignment areas and other important functional areas of government.

Census informs your community's decisions. The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation. Data about changes in your community are crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or economic development.

Will the 2010 Census be the same as 2000?

No, there are some important changes: 2010 Census will be short form only—just 10 easy questions. The long form is now part of the annual American Community Survey.

What if I forget to return the questionnaire? If you don't send back your form, you may receive a visit

from a census taker. If a census taker visits you, here's what you should do:

First ask to see their ID.

All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name; they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag.

■ Note that the census taker will never ask to enter your home.

■ If you're still not certain about their identity, please call the Chicago Regional Census Center at 312-454-2700 to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau.

■ Answer the census form questions for your entire household

(you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the census taker can record the results for submission to the Census Bureau.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 14-17, 2010

Census questionnaires mailed or delivered to households.

March – April 2010

Be Counted program is implemented. Census questionnaires are available at Flossmoor Village Hall for individuals who did not receive one by mail.

April 1, 2010

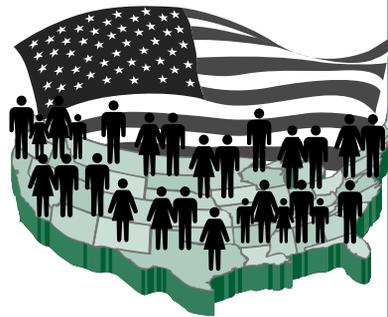
Census Day

April – July 2010

Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

December 31, 2010

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

The Village Receives AA+ Bond Rating

Recently, the Village of Flossmoor received excellent news from the Standard & Poor's Rating Services. Their report issued on November 17, 2009 raised Flossmoor's financial bond rating from AA to AA+, based on the Village's maintenance of very strong reserves and good management practices and policies. In the Village's ongoing effort to reduce expenditures, the Village Board approved an advanced refunding (refinancing) of the 2002 bonds that financed the construction of the Flossmoor Public Library. As the interest rates have decreased due to the recession, the Village will save approximately \$265,000 in interest costs by refinancing the existing bonds, approximately \$80,000 of which is a directly due to the bond rating upgrade. The reduced interest rate on the bonds results in a direct savings to the taxpayers of approximately \$20,000 per year on the Village's tax levy.

Standard & Poor's report is based upon the current financial condition of the Village as it functions in the regional and national economy. According to the report, the stable outlook reflects Standard & Poor's expectation that the Village will maintain its strong financial position. The Village's status as a mature, built-out community, its affluence, its growth of the tax base and its participation in the deep and diverse Chicago area economy add to the rating's stability. A bond rating upgrade in this economy is very rare.

Vehicle License Stickers On Sale Now

The Village of Flossmoor requires all vehicles registered to a Flossmoor address with the Illinois Secretary of State to purchase and properly affix the 2010 vehicle sticker by April 15 on the lower right passenger side windshield.

Vehicles stickers expire every year. A penalty fee will be added to all applications received/postmarked after April 15 (A passenger car sticker will cost \$55 rather than \$40 after the deadline). Stickers may be purchased at the Village Hall front counter during normal business hours, mailed, or dropped in the drop-off box located in the Village Hall parking lot or Flossmoor Police Station lobby.

Animal License Tag

All dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed with 2010-2011 tag by April 15, 2010. Animal tags may be obtained at the Village Hall or by mail beginning March 1, 2010. Owners must provide a veterinarian's certificate of a current rabies inoculation. Licensing fees are \$15 per animal. The Flossmoor Municipal Code limits the maximum number of animals to three (3) per household.

Flossmoor Baseball's Opening Day

Flossmoor Baseball's Opening Day Parade and ceremonies are set for Saturday, April 17, 2010. The parade will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Parker Junior High School and continue east on Flossmoor Road to Flossmoor Park. For further information, log on to www.flossmoorbbsb.com.

New Sculpture in the Gardens

Leaving the Flossmoor Sculpture Gardens program this Fall was "Pulling III" (Orange Man) by artist Jack Howard Potter. "Pulling III" was included in Flossmoor's rotational sculpture program through a lease with the artist. The sculpture has been prominently displayed for the past three years in the award-winning sculpture garden. Even though the Village said good-bye to "Pulling III", we are happy to add a new rotational sculpture by Mr. Howard-Potter named "Marmeg". The brilliant red and black abstract sculpture will stand out at its new home in the Sculpture Garden for the next three years. "Marmeg" is a collage of body parts with the wings/flames symbolizing exploration of movement in a solid form.



Marmeg



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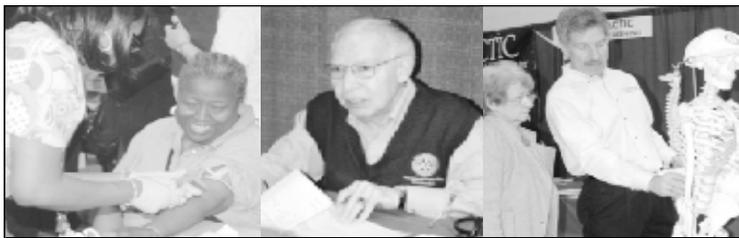
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Rotary Club of Homewood
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Annual Diversity Dinners

This local event helps highlight diversity in the south suburban area. The 2010 Diversity Dinners will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2010. The event, held at multiple homes, schools and other locations in Chicago's south suburbs, brings people of different races, ethnicities, religions, lifestyles and ages together to share a meal, and have a conversation about various issues. These exchanges have led to a better understanding of our similarities and differences in our diverse society. Those wishing to participate by either hosting or attending a dinner should call Barbara J. Moore at 708-747-6455 or e-mail her at barbmoorepf@gmail.com.



"This event celebrates the region's rich diversity and gives participants an opportunity to get to know one another," said Vickie Sline of Matteson, who, with her husband, is a long time participant. "We are proud of the number of participants who have joined us year after year and we look forward to welcoming new faces." The evening begins at 7:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and "chit-chat" followed by a catered dinner at 7:30 p.m. and ends with conversation.



Flossmoor Service League Annual Housewalk and Luncheon

The Flossmoor Service League's 2010 annual housewalk will occur May 19, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The housewalk highlights several unique homes in Flossmoor and Homewood. Tickets to this year's housewalk are \$20. Proceeds from the Walk will go towards scholarships to charities and philanthropic organizations in the south suburbs. For tickets or more information regarding this event, please visit www.flossmoorserviceleague.org.

Soliciting in Flossmoor

As a reminder, part of our Village ordinance prohibits solicitors from approaching and attempting to make contact at a residence where a "No Solicitor Invited" sign is posted. It should be noted that many organizations going door to door to solicit regularly check in with the Police Department and are reminded about the solicitation rules. If you are interested in obtaining one, the signs are available at the Police Department and the Village Hall for \$0.75. Please call if you feel something is suspicious about anyone in your neighborhood or if you observe any violations of our Village ordinances or any other statute violation, for that matter.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE! H-F Park District Earth Day Celebration at Irons Oaks Saturday, April 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

All ages are invited to celebrate Earth Day with Irons Oaks at this new special event! Activities will include:

- Tackling the Power Pole and Climbing Wall
- Discovering composting with the Prairie Godmothers
- Seeing demonstrations by the University of Illinois Extension office
- Hiking in the woods
- Making nature crafts in the Discovery Center
- Trying Qi Gong outdoors
- Eating treats at a campfire
- Visiting with the Irons Oaks' mascot, Rocky the Raccoon



Irons Oaks is located at 20000 S. Western Avenue in Olympia Fields. Call 708-481-2330 or visit our website for full details: ironsoaks.com.

Renovations Bring Award to Golf Course

Golf Magazine selected golf architect Raymond Hearn's remake of the classic Flossmoor Country Club (FCC) course as the 2009 Renovation of the Year. Earlier in the course history, originally designed by Herbert J. Tweedie, the FCC consistently hosted major tournaments, including PGA Championship, Western Opens, Western Amateur Championships, and USGA National Championships over the course's 110-years.

In 2006, Hearn was hired by the Club to restore and update the course. Hearn's updates included lengthening the course by some 200 yards and adding the 135 yard par-3 No. 13 that plays downhill to a small green flanked by a trio of oddly shaped traps. However, the signature hole is No. 8, a par 4 of 461 yards requiring a long second shot over an S-shaped lake to a wide and shallow green.

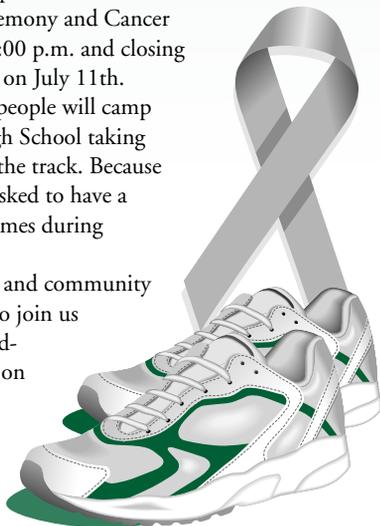
The Club sponsors about a half-dozen charity events each year that allow non-members access. One of the biggest is a fundraiser for Misericordia, the home for children and adults with development disabilities in Chicago, held each June.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

The 2010 American Cancer Society Relay for Life event of Homewood-Flossmoor will take place July 10-11th at Homewood-Flossmoor High school located at 999 Kedzie Avenue. The event will begin on July 10th at 12 noon with the set up of campsites and fun filled activities. The Opening Ceremony and Cancer Survivor's Victory Lap begins at 3:00 p.m. and closing ceremony takes place at 6:00 a.m. on July 11th.

At the Relay for Life teams of people will camp out at Homewood-Flossmoor High School taking turns walking or running around the track. Because cancer never sleeps, each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event.

All cancer survivors, caregivers and community friends and families are welcome to join us at the Relay for Life of Homewood-Flossmoor! For more information on the event, to form a team, or be on the planning committee, please contact Myra Kocsis at 708-633-7770 or myra.kocsis@cancer.org.



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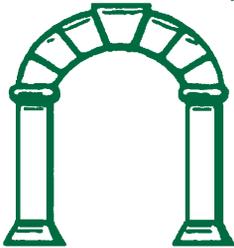
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GOOD NEIGHBOR CORNER

Nominating: Ruby Marsh

Mrs. Ruby Marsh organizes our annual neighborhood block party and is very active in the community and organizations such as Hands Across America and Cancer Support Center, etc.

Submitted by Mrs. Sharon Kroopkin

We're looking for Good Neighbors!

The Good Neighbor Corner is a new newsletter feature highlighting the good news in our community. In order to praise the efforts of local residents, organizations and businesses, we need your help! We're looking for those friendly folks, good deeds, and special neighborly touches that make living in Flossmoor special.

If you know a Good Neighbor, fill out the form below and send it to Flossmoor Village Hall, 2800 Flossmoor Road, Flossmoor, Illinois, 60422. Help us share the efforts of good neighbors with the entire community. Submissions will be featured in the upcoming edition of Flossmoor News.

GOOD NEIGHBOR NOMINATION FORM

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your Phone Number _____

Email _____

Please provide the name and address of the person/group you are nominating _____

Why are they a Good Neighbor to you?



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POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Spring Safety Tips

The Flossmoor Police Department offers the following tips to keep you and your family safe this spring:

Secure all doors and windows whenever you leave your home.

Failing to lock all doors and windows when leaving home is one of the most common mistakes leading to home burglaries.

Leave a light on in one or two rooms when you leave your house at night.

This will give your home the appearance of being occupied when you are away. Assess your outdoor lighting; exterior lighting is also a deterrent.

Never leave your garage door opener in an unlocked car.

By doing you could give thieves access to your garage. If you have an attached garage, you could also be giving thieves access to your home.

Houses with cover.

Trees and shrubs

near windows and doors should be trimmed to allow visibility from the street front, and rear porches should be locked.

When on vacation, tell a trusted friend/neighbor where you'll be and how to reach you in an emergency.

Ask them to pick up your mail and newspapers. Also, add your address to the vacation house watch list located in the Flossmoor Police Department. When you are out of town, the police will check on it.

Leave a radio playing on a talk or news station.

This will make it sound like someone is home.

Don't give out personal information to strangers over the telephone.

Never open your door to a stranger.

Instruct children to do the same. Sounds simple, but too many people will allow strangers in posing as power company representatives or other utility company workers. Ask for an

ID and if you're still in doubt, call the company for verification before letting anyone in. Keep your door closed and locked.

Put cash and jewelry in a safe and possibly secret location.

Most burglars want items that are easy to carry and conceal.

Install an alarm system.

By installing an alarm system, you would make it very noisy to enter your home; therefore, this being your number one deterrent for burglars. The most effective ones are the systems that will activate at an outside service, who will then contact the Flossmoor Police Department. Also, cellular backup is also suggested since phone wires can be cut.

Get a dog.

Man's best friend can also be a great protector when the house is empty.

According to the 2008 Unified Crime Reporting Index, 85% of reported thefts in Flossmoor were committed without any forced entry or damage to property. Please keep your property secure.



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DIVISION OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES NEWS

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE'S POLICY REGARDING DUMPSTERS

With spring just around the corner, the Village would like to remind residents of the Village's dumpster policy. Here are the specifics:

✓ Residents must obtain a permit from the Zoning Administrator before dumpster is delivered.

✓ Dumpster are allowed provided they meet the following conditions:

✓ Only one dumpster may be located on a residential lot at a time.

✓ No part of any dumpster may be located within or extend onto the right-of-way or easement, sidewalk, parkway or alley.

✓ Placement of a dumpster shall be limited to thirty (30) days per residential lot per calendar year.

✓ The dumpster must be located on an impervious surface.

✓ The dumpster shall not be used to the disposal of animal and vegetable waste, liquid, or other waste resulting from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking, and consumption of food and all cans, bottles and other containers originally used for food.

✓ It is the responsibility of the property owner or person being serviced to maintain the dumpster area (i.e. scattered debris, overflow, etc.).

For more information or questions regarding dumpsters, please contact the Division of Inspectional Services at 708-957-4101.

PORTABLE TEMPORARY STORAGE CONTAINERS

As the construction and moving season begins, the Village wants to remind residents of our policy regarding temporary storage containers. The ordinance states the following:

■ Portable temporary storage containers are allowed in any single-family residential district provided they meet the following conditions:

■ Only one container may be located on a residential lot at a time.

■ No portion of any container may extend onto a right-of-way or easement for ingress and egress.

■ The container shall not exceed eight (8) feet in width, sixteen (16) feet in length and eight (8) feet in height.

■ The container must be located

on an impervious surface.

■ Placement of a portable temporary storage container shall be limited to fourteen (14) days per residential lot, per calendar year.

■ The container must be locked and secured when not being loaded or unloaded.

■ The container shall not be used for storage of flammable liquids and/

or hazardous materials.

■ Such units may only be placed when an administrative permit has been issued by the Zoning Administrator.

For more information, contact the Division of Inspectional Services at 708-957-4101.



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PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Flood Prevention Information

As the weather becomes moderate, few of us are thinking of Spring or Summer rains. Now is the time to be planning ways to protect ourselves and our properties from the potential for intense rainstorms that cause drainage and flooding difficulties. Not many residents will forget April 16, 2006 and September 13, 2008. On these days, Flossmoor flooded when the rain came in torrents, sheets, and buckets. Your property may be high enough that it was not damaged by past floods. However, the next flood could be much worse. Sometime in the future, your property may flood.

On August 5, 2008, the Village updated the Floodplain and Stormwater Management Code. The goals of this code include protecting residents and their property from flood hazards, complying with national regulations, and preserving the natural characteristics of the stream corridors. The code specifies two types of flood hazard areas – the floodway and the floodplain. Land uses which have a low flood

damage potential and do not restrict flood flows may be permitted in the floodway, provided they are not prohibited by ordinance. Floodplain areas permit the same type of uses as the floodway and also may allow the construction of structures.

Any illegal floodplain activity that is observed should be reported to Dave deLucia of the Public Works Director's Office at 708-957-4100. For those residents interested in determining if their home is in a floodplain or floodway, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided flood maps for the Flossmoor area. If interested in obtaining this information, please call the Public Works Department at 708-957-4100.

Those residents located near creeks and drainageways can take some precautions to reduce the risk of flooding. It is very important that property owners near creeks or drainageways protect one another through property maintenance and observance of State and Village regulations. Dumping in creeks or

drainageways is illegal and should be reported to the Ordinance Officer of the Police Department at 957-4500. The following actions can protect residents and their neighbors from potential flooding:

- No grading or any alteration of the streambank is to be performed without obtaining a permit. To receive more information on how to obtain a permit, residents can call the Building Department at 957-4101.

- No materials, natural or manmade, are to be placed in the drainageway or along the banks without a Village permit.

- Grass clippings may not be put within the drainageway or on its banks; this is true of all landscape waste.

- Any materials in the drainageway which may impede the flow of water should be removed as soon as possible.

It is important to know that standard homeowner's insurance policies do not cover losses due to floods. Flossmoor is, however, a participant in the National Flood

Insurance Program, which makes it possible for Flossmoor residents to obtain federally-backed flood insurance. Due to Village efforts to improve stormwater management, the National Flood Insurance Program policies for Flossmoor residents have been reduced by 10%.

While many homeowners would not entertain the thought of being without fire insurance, they need to consider the possibility of insuring their homes against flood damage as well which may be a higher risk than fire. Persons who live or own properties in flood hazard areas are urged to purchase flood insurance to protect themselves against flooding losses. It should also be noted that property does not have to be located in a flood hazard area to qualify for federally-backed flood insurance.

Several flooding publications have been written for homeowners. These documents are available for review at www.floodsmart.gov. To obtain more information on flood hazard areas, residents can call the Public Works Department at 708-957-4100.



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2010 South Suburban Diversity Dinners

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010

7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres & chit-chat

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Delicious catered dinner

8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Conversation

2010 South Suburban Diversity Dinners Since the 1990's residents of Chicago's South Suburban communities have been gathering at houses throughout the region to celebrate its rich diversity. The Diversity Dinners bring people of different races, ethnicities, religions, lifestyles and ages together to share a meal, discuss their common goals, understand their differences, address misperceptions and offer solutions to strengthen their communities.

For further information, call Barbara Moore of NCBI at (708) 747-6645 or e-mail her at barb@ncbiillinois.org



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