

FLOSSMOOR

news

VOLUME 22 \ NUMBER 4 \ WINTER 2012



Winterfest 2012

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON
DECEMBER 1, 2012

Activities begin at 1:00 p.m. | Tree Lighting at 5:00 p.m.
Children's Story Time at the Flossmoor Public Library
Children's Holiday Party
Games – Crafts – Picture with Santa
Balloon Artist – Face Painting
Holiday Tree Lighting with the H-F Vikings Choir

Supported by the Village of Flossmoor, Flossmoor Public Library,
Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Corporation and H-F Park District.
Special thank you to Sweet Annie's Bakery, BMO Harris Bank,
Flossmoor Business Association, H-F High School,
H-F Lions Club, and Sunnycrest Greenhouse



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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 Dept. \ 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:

PAM STASIL

THE TIMES
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Pictures with Santa

Saturday, December 1
2-4:30 p.m.

Flossmoor Public Library

DATES to know

NOVEMBER 24 - JANUARY 10

Drop off your old or broken light strings at the Flossmoor Village Hall and designated H-F Park District location

NOVEMBER 22 & 23

Village Hall Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 1

Winterfest & Holiday Tree Lighting
Toys for Tots Drop Off at Coldwell Banker - 10 a.m.

DECEMBER 14

Infant Welfare Society's Light Up the Night

DECEMBER 24

Village Hall Closes at Noon

DECEMBER 25

Village Hall Closed for Christmas Holiday

DECEMBER 29 & JANUARY 5

Free Christmas Tree Recycling Drop Days at Irons Oaks

DECEMBER 31

Village Hall Closes at Noon

JANUARY 1

Village Hall Closed for New Year's Day

JANUARY 21

Village Hall Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

MARCH 1 - APRIL 15

Vehicle Stickers and Animal Tags On Sale

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Re/Max Synergy Opens in Flossmoor Commons

In October, RE/MAX Synergy celebrated the opening of their new Flossmoor office located in the Flossmoor Commons Center (3327A Vollmer Road). RE/MAX relocated from an office in Flossmoor that had less visibility than their new office, which includes more than 3,600 square feet of space to accommodate their 26 real estate agents. The move has allowed the office to see greater foot traffic, especially walk-in clients.

“One of our goals was to move the office into a location where we could best serve the community, which we have been involved with and committed to for years”, said Mike Mondello, the office’s managing broker. To learn more about the services RE/MAX Synergy provides, call them at 708.798.133.

Public Art Program Seeks Community Support

For more than twelve years, the Flossmoor Public Art Program has brought distinction to our community through the installation of outdoor sculptures and the creation of the Flossmoor Garden and Sculpture Walk. The Art Commission, composed of volunteers from the community, has worked diligently to continue to bring art to Flossmoor. Through the Commission’s effort, the Art Program has beautified Flossmoor, stimulated conversation, and been a source of pride for those living in our Village.



The Flossmoor Public Art Program was established with private funds and a grant. It is important to note that tax dollars are not used to purchase sculptures. The Commission relies on the willingness of residents to donate to this worthwhile cause that benefits the entire community. Through financial support, the Public Art Program continues to grow by offering docent tours, educational programs for local schools, and continuing to promote the cultural side of Flossmoor.

This year, the Commission plans to roll out a new website for the Art Program. In addition, the Commission is partnering with the HF High School Art Program to bring student created sculpture to Flossmoor.

You may show your support with a purchase of an engraved brick (details on page 7), participate in the water bill donation program, or make a monetary donation. For more details, please contact Kimberly Richardson at 708.798.2300.



Celebrating 50 Years-One Vision

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BMO Harris Bank Now Accepting Water Bill Payments (Flossmoor Location Only)

BMO Harris Bank in Flossmoor is now accepting payments for water bills. All bills sent out on and after October 25, 2012 will have return envelopes for BMO Harris Bank.



Residents Begin to See Savings On Their Electric Bill

The Village's Electric Aggregation Program became effective August 24, 2012. By now, all participants of the Program should have seen the new rate of 4.85¢ from FirstEnergy Solutions Corporation (FES) on their ComEd bill. FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. is the official electric supplier of the Village. Direct Energy, or any other alternative electric suppliers are NOT the Village's vendor for the Program. Eligible ComEd customers were automatically enrolled into the Program unless you selected another supplier or opted out of the Village's program. If you are a new resident to Flossmoor or want to switch to FirstEnergy from your current supplier or you have any questions about this or any other aggregation-related matter, contact FES at 800-977-0500.

To calculate your monthly/annual saving, visit www.MyComEdBill.com.

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|--|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
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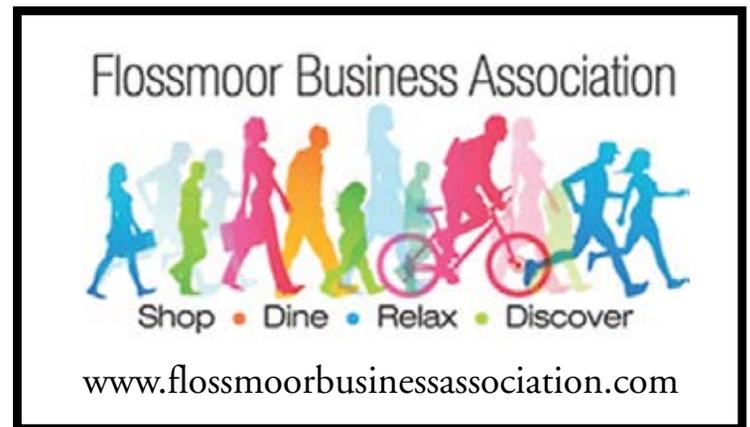
1. Purchased Electric Adjustment (PEA) varies and is currently 0.5% per kWh. FirstEnergy Solutions charges no PEA fee. 2. The ComEd price to compare of 8.00 ¢/kWh is an extrapolation of the four-month summer rate (7.034 ¢/kWh) and the eight-month winter rate (8.542¢/kWh).

Village Continues Record of Financial Reporting Excellence

The Village of Flossmoor has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report. The certificate was awarded for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2011, and it's the 34th consecutive year that the Village has received this award. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The determination is made by an impartial panel to ensure that awardees prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that demonstrate the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

To achieve a CAFR for 34 consecutive years is truly an achievement. The award represents an ongoing commitment by the community to excellence in the in financial reporting and financial management.

"Without the commitment of the Mayor, Trustees, Village Manager, and the community itself, it would not be possible for the Village to sustain its high level of excellence in financing reporting," said Scott Bordui, Village Finance Director.



Buy Local and Win Fabulous Prizes This Holiday

Instead of giving your money to businesses outside of the Flossmoor, consider making a commitment to buy local during the busiest shopping season of the year. Conveniently located retail, service businesses and restaurants are an important component to the long-term prosperity of the community, and the Village of Flossmoor continues to seek, attract and retain high quality developments. Flossmoor has been truly fortunate to have some very well established businesses in the Village for many years.

Are you still shopping at the mall for gifts that neatly fit into wrapped gift boxes? Don't just limit yourself to retail shopping malls. If you are looking for unique shopping ideas for your family and friends, Flossmoor has it all. From small gifts to specialty items for children, teenagers, moms and dads, grandparents and seniors, and yes, even your favorite pet. Remember that most service businesses offer gift certificates or gift cards.

As part of the holiday shopping season, the Flossmoor Business Association is raffling three (3) gift baskets as a part of the Winterfest celebration. Each basket is valued at \$500 or more. Tickets are available at participating Flossmoor businesses. Go to www.flossmoorbusinessassociation.com to find where to purchase raffle tickets and learn more about the prizes.

HOLIDAY happenings

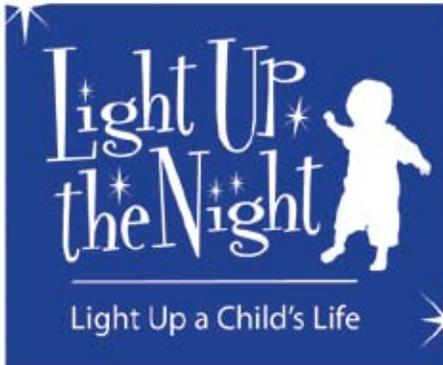
Free Christmas Tree and Holiday Lights Recycling

The 3rd Annual Community Christmas Tree & Holiday Light Recycling Program will be held on Saturday, December 29 and January 5 from 9 am to Noon at Irons Oaks in the Vollmer Road parking lot. This event is free and open to the public. Through the past 2 years, this program has kept more than 900 trees out of landfills with more than 600 trees recycled last year alone. Ornaments, lights, and stands should all be removed before dropping off your tree. Bring your HF Go Green punch card and receive a stamp for each tree donated. Goodie bags will be provided for all donors! From Thanksgiving to January 10, 2013 you can also drop off your old, broken strings of light at the Flossmoor Village Hall, the Irwin Center, Wiley's Grill, HF Ice Arena, HF Racquet Club or Irons Oaks. For more information please phone 312-804-0496.



Gingerbread Village Returns to Flossmoor

Once again, resident Janet Gustafson is opening her home this holiday to view the Gingerbread Village. This year's village theme is trains and games. Unfortunately, there will not be a gingerbread tour as part of Winterfest on December 1. However, Mrs. Gustafson is taking reservations for you and your friends and family to view the gingerbread. For reservations, please email Janet at kjgingerbread@yahoo.com. The gingerbread village will be on display from mid-November until the end of December.



Light Up the Night For Children Lives

Once again, the Infant Welfare Society's Flossmoor Juniors are sponsoring a luminaria sale for their Light up the Night event on December 14. The Flossmoor Juniors welcome residents and businesses to support the cause and join Flossmoor Juniors in this community-wide effort in lighting luminaria together throughout the streets of Homewood & Flossmoor on the night of Friday, December 14 starting at 5 pm.

In addition to showing community pride and spirit, your participation will help light up a child's life. Proceeds from this event benefit the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, which provides quality, community-based healthcare to uninsured and underinsured children and women who would otherwise lack access to basic medical services. To find out where you may purchase luminaria, visit www.infantwelfare.org/flossmoorjrs.

St. John's Cookie Walk

The Church of St. John the Evangelist will host its 15th Annual Cookie Walk on December 1. The event will be held at the Church (2640 Park Drive) from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the church's undercroft. The event is open to the public and raises money for local charities, such as PADS, South Suburban Family Shelter, the Rich Township Food Pantry, and Respond Now. Last year, the event raised \$4,000 for local charities. For more information, please contact St. John's Church at 708.798.4150.

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FLOSSMOOR *fest*

Flossmoor Fest Named Best Fest for Second Year

The 2012 Flossmoor Fest brought fantastic weather, families, neighbors and friends out once again to this annual community party. For two consecutive years, the readers of the Southtown Star voted Flossmoor Fest as the year's Best Fest. The Village Board, Flossmoor Fest Committee, and Village Staff extend their thanks and appreciation to the following companies, organizations, families, and individuals for their donations and support of the 2012 Flossmoor Fest. If you donated to the Fest and have not picked up your shirt, you may pick it up during Village Hall office hours.

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ART news

Accepting Brick Applications for Spring Installation

Finding the right gift can be overwhelming. The Art Commission has a great gift idea! Buy an engraved brick for yourself, friends, or family. For a \$100 tax-deductible contribution, you will be able to purchase a personalized brick. Your engraved brick will be installed in the downtown circle located across from the train station. The exact placement of the bricks will be at the Village's discretion and will remain the sole property of the Village of Flossmoor. Deadline for spring installation is January 31, 2013.



ENGRAVED BRICK ORDER FORM

Please make checks payable to the Village of Flossmoor.

Complete the order form and mail with check to:

Brick Donations, Village of Flossmoor, 2800 Flossmoor Rd.,
Flossmoor, IL 60422

DONOR INFORMATION:

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ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

BRICK INFORMATION: Print the exact message that will be engraved in the brick in the boxes below. (Note: The donor information is not included unless it is placed in the message boxes.) Each line accommodates 13 characters, including blanks. Please remember to leave a blank box between words or wherever you would like a space.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> |
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*Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent the Internal Revenue Code allows. Since all items remain the property of the Village of Flossmoor, no goods or services are provided to the donor in exchange for a charitable donation.

If You Missed the Village Electronic Recycling Event

Under the one year old law, Homewood Disposal and Skyline are not allowed to collect and/or dispose of electronics. If you are looking to properly dispose of your electronics, there are free local drop off locations: Salvation Army, 150 Halsted Street, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 or Habitat ReStore (Habitat for Humanity) 139 W. Joe Orr Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411.

Building and Modeling Sustainable Gardening Practices in our Community...

The Village of Flossmoor Green Committee is undertaking a collaborative effort with Parker Junior High School. The first steps of this native garden experiment began in November and will continue through the rest of the school year. Parker Junior High Green Team Science teachers, their students, and community volunteers modeled specific gardening techniques and choices as advised by local, sustainable gardeners in our area. Students from the Parker Green Team will have a role in researching and determining appropriate plants and care. The garden project is located directly across from the Village Hall on Flossmoor Road surrounding the Parker Junior High sign.

The start of the project began in November by mapping out the bed and prepping the soil using the lasagna garden method. Lasagna gardening is a no-dig, no-till organic method that layers green and brown materials such as leaves and coffee grounds which results in rich, fluffy soil. The lasagna method is especially useful in areas with poor quality, dry soil. While the lasagna garden is decomposing over winter, the students from Parker Junior High will research the benefits of using native species, select plants appropriate for our climate and design the garden layout determined by plant height and bloom time. The Native Garden Experiment will be documented by a film and video group from start to finish to use as a further learning tool. Stay tuned to learn more about this collaborative effort between the Village of Flossmoor Green Committee and Parker Junior High so you can implement these sustainable, and smart techniques for your home garden.

Want to Try Your Own Lasagna Garden?

-  **Final Layer:** Compost or Manure
- “Repeat layers 2-5 until Garden is 2 feet deep”**
-  **Layer 5:** “Greens”
-  **Layer 4:** “Browns”
-  **Layer 3:** Organic “Green”
ex: vegetable scraps, garden trimmings, and grass clippings
-  **Layer 2:** Organic “Browns”
ex: fall leaves, shredded newspaper, peat and pine needles
-  **Layer 1:** Corrugated cardboard or newspaper

Idling Gets You Nowhere Campaign in Flossmoor Continues...

Many area schools, churches, and organizations are spreading the word across Flossmoor in support of the “Idling Gets You Nowhere” campaign. Be on the lookout for special posters designed by talented students in our area. Brake, the NO IDLING stuffed dog mascot, is making his rounds through the area elementary schools reminding parents to turn off their engines while waiting near school buildings. Reducing idling not only improves air quality in Flossmoor, but saves residents money on gas. Pledge to make a difference by reducing idling in Flossmoor.



John Lampley, winner of Name the No Idling mascot, poses with Brake



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Snow Removal Information

The Village of Flossmoor is committed to providing safe, accessible streets during inclement weather. The policy for street salting and snow removal is below:

Salting

Salting of streets in the Central Business District and along principal routes, key intersections, hills, and curves is conducted whenever icy or slippery conditions become hazardous. The Village tries to balance its priority of insuring public safety with concern for the severe pollutant effects of salt on the environment.

Plowing

Snow plowing begins when snow accumulation amounts to more than two (2) inches. Plowing continues as long as required to maintain passable roadways. Plowing priorities are as follows:

- Central Business District
- Principal arterial streets
- Collector streets and parking lots
- Local through streets
- Cul-de-sacs and alleys

Resident Assistance

In order to make everyone's winter safe, enjoyable and free from unnecessary back pain, the Village offers these suggestions:

- If possible, shovel driveway aprons only after roadways are completely cleared. This will eliminate the need to shovel more than once.
- Pile all snow away from the edge of the road on the left side of the driveway as you face the house. Should the snowplow make an additional pass after you have shoveled, it will not push the same snow back into your driveway.
- Do not push snow into or across the street. This not only creates an additional hazard, but also may result in the same snow being deposited in your neighbor's driveway should the snowplow make an additional pass.
- In order to make pedestrian travel safer and easier for everyone, clear snow and ice from the walks adjacent to your property.
- Keep parked cars off the street.
- Do not forget to clear snow away from fire hydrants to permit easy access in the event of an emergency.



Flood Insurance

It can be helpful determining if your home is in an identified flood hazard area. In order to obtain this information, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided newly-revised flood maps for the Flossmoor area. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) identify flood hazard areas and provide additional information, including the flood zone and base flood elevations of particular properties.

The Village of Flossmoor participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This program provides federally-subsidized flood insurance to Flossmoor residents who desire or are required to carry this coverage. The cost for insurance depends on the amount of coverage and the degree of the flood hazard. Continuing Village efforts to improve storm water management have resulted in a 10% premium reduction for policies purchased by Flossmoor residents. To obtain more information on flood hazard areas, residents can call the Public Works Department at 708.957.4100. Your insurance agent can provide specific information regarding the NFIP policy and how it relates to your residence. Several flooding publications have been written for homeowners. These documents are available for review at flood protection libraries set up at the Public Works Service Center and the Flossmoor Public Library. You can also visit www.floodsmart.gov, which is an official site for the National Flood Insurance Program.

A promotional poster for the Flossmoor Business Association Holiday Raffle. The background is dark blue with a stylized Christmas tree on the right side, composed of white and blue swirls. The text is white and blue. At the top, it says "Flossmoor Business Association" in a sans-serif font. Below that, "Holiday Raffle" is written in a large, elegant script font. In the center, a white oval contains the text "3 Fabulous Gift Baskets (valued at over \$500)". Below the oval, it says "Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20" and "Visit FBA member locations or www.flossmoorbusinessassociation.com to purchase tickets".

Flossmoor Business Association
Holiday Raffle
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Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20
Visit FBA member locations or
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