

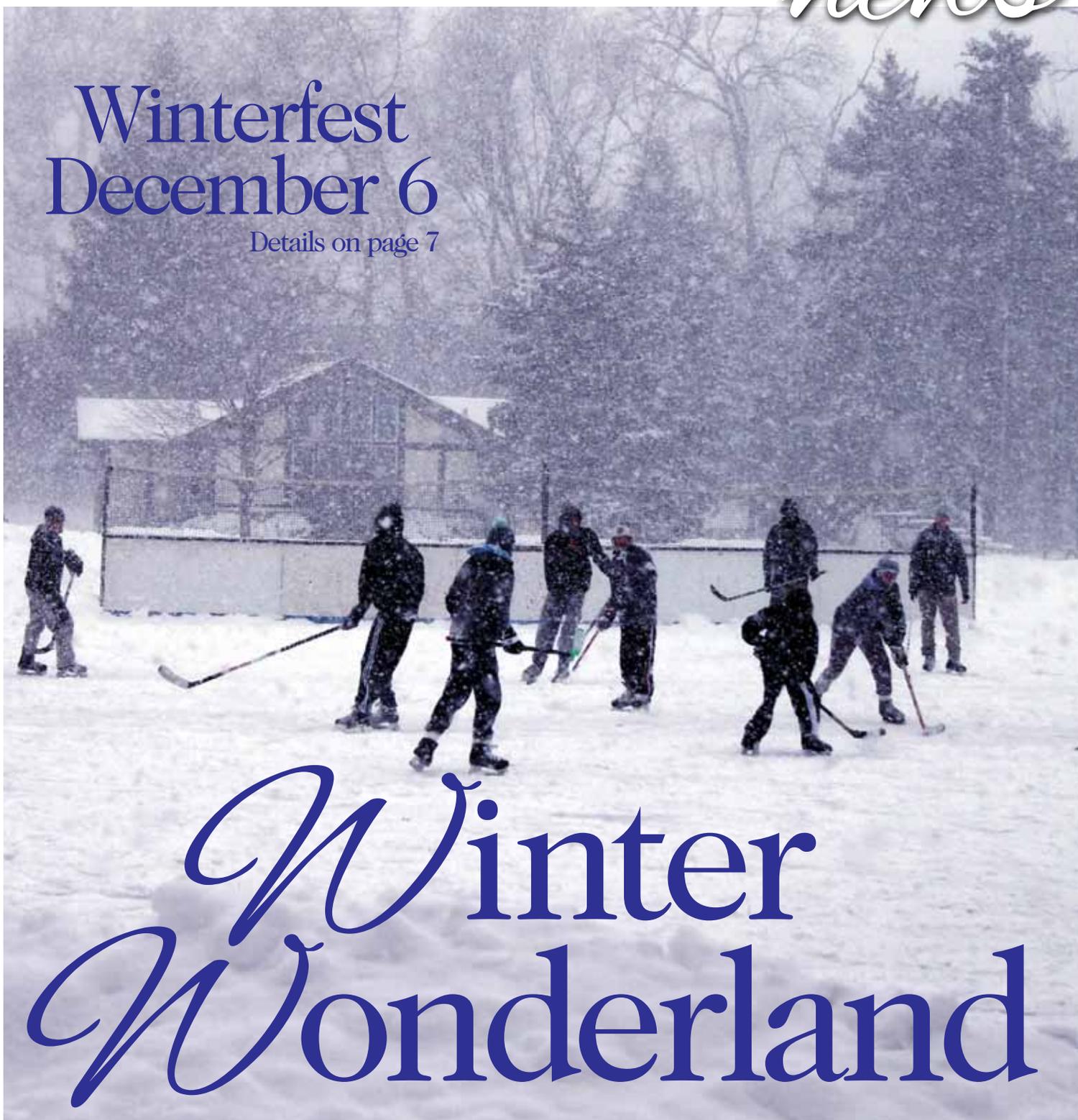
FLOSSMOOR

news

VOLUME 26 \ NUMBER 4 \ WINTER 2014

Winterfest December 6

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Winter Wonderland

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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

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 Tuesday of the month
 at 7:00 p.m.

**Community Relations
 Commission Meeting**
 4th Tuesday of the
 month at 7:00 p.m.

Green Committee Meeting
 3rd Tuesday of the month
 at 7:00 p.m.

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:

Christine Reiser

THE TIMES
 MEDIA COMPANY
 708/891.0744

Christine.Reiser@nwitimes.com

DATES to know

November 27 & 28

Village Hall closed for
 Thanksgiving Holiday

December 6

Winterfest

Festivities begin at 2 pm
 details on page 7

St. John's Cookie Walk

9 am - 11 am



December 24

Village Hall closes at Noon

December 25

Village Hall closed for
 Christmas Holiday

December 31

Village Hall closes at Noon

January 1

Village Hall closed for
 New Year Holiday

January 3

Community Christmas Tree & Holiday Lights Recycling Day

Drop off 9 am - 1pm
 Irons Oaks Vollmer Road parking lot.
 (Drop off undecorated and
 unwrapped trees)



January 19

Village Hall
 closed for
 Martin Luther
 King Jr. Birthday

Community-wide Day of Service

sponsored by the Flossmoor
 Community Relations Commission



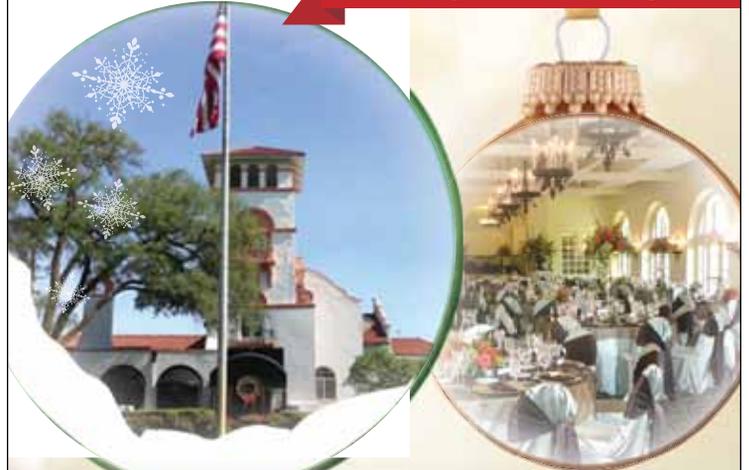
March 1 - April 15

2015 vehicle stickers
 and animal tags are
 on sale



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MAYOR'S *message*

Productive Year in 2014 Points to More Progress in 2015

I hope this edition of the Flossmoor newsletter finds you and your family well and enjoying the holiday season.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on some of the projects that the Village Board, Staff and I have been working on in our continuing effort to improve our community. The Village has accomplished a lot this year which will set the stage for substantial progress in 2015.

Site development for the new Meijer Superstore, which will be located at Vollmer Road and Crawford Avenue, is well underway. Extensive work on infrastructure at the site has been completed this year, and when the total project is finished, will include 6 additional outlots, one of which will be the Meijer gas station and convenience store. We can expect to see construction stop this winter and pick up again next spring with the construction of the

193,000-square-foot store, which when completed will sell groceries, general merchandise, and also have a pharmacy and garden center. The Meijer store is on track to open in 2016.

The \$4 million dollar Metra train station renovation project in the downtown area is "on track!" The Flossmoor Road viaduct renovation was completed ahead of schedule in October, thanks to the cooperation of Canadian National Railroad and Cook County, and as a result, Flossmoor Road was reopened weeks earlier than planned. The Village pushed for this work to be completed to address spalling concrete and a leaking bridge which as everyone is aware has been an eyesore for many years. Construction crews are continuing to work on the south end of the Metra station. The south entrance is expected to reopen in mid-November with the north entrance scheduled to close once the south entrance is open. The Metra

project is scheduled to be completed in early 2015.

The Village has completed Phases 1A and 1B of the Water Main Improvement Program. Overall, the construction has gone fairly smoothly and we are pleased to report that all of the new water main is in good working order. Staff is preparing for the second phase of the water main improvement project, and construction will resume this spring in Heather Hill, Collett Lane, on sections of Hutchison Road, Carroll Parkway, Evans and Flossmoor Road and near the Western Avenue Water Tower.

I am pleased to report that the Village enters 2015 in excellent financial shape, having just received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award for the 36th year in a row. The Village continues to conduct a full scope audit of village finances at the fund level, and Flossmoor's auditor reports that "this level of examination



Mayor Paul Braun

is a demonstration of transparency which Flossmoor has chosen to reveal for nearly 40 years." The community can feel confident that the Village's finances are being well managed.

The Village Board of Trustees, Village Staff and I continue to work hard on your behalf to maintain Flossmoor as a great place to live, work, and raise our families.

I look forward to seeing you at Flossmoor WinterFest on December 6th and on behalf of the Village Board of Trustees and Village Staff, I hope that you and your family have a happy and healthy New Year!

Cordially,
Mayor Paul S. Braun



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Stay Informed with Flossmoor E-News

Residents who sign up for the Village's e-newsletter and the Police Department's E-COP to get timely news of what's happening in town, from road closures to police news to special events.

E-Newsletters are sent twice a month or when the Village has information that has an immediate impact on homeowners, such as the Flossmoor Road street closure for the Metra station project this past summer. Residents and businesses are encouraged to log onto the village's website at www.flossmoor.org click on the "NEWS" link, and provide your contact information. The data collected will only be used for notification purposes.

The Flossmoor Police Department uses E-COP to alert residents about public safety issues.

To sign up, go to www.flossmoor.org. Click on the "NEWS" link on the left side.



Art Auction Wins Community Praise and Support

On October 11, Flossmoor's art auction brought new works to art lovers, celebrated the community's diversity and spirit, and raised funds to support the Flossmoor Public Art Program.

More than 100 area residents packed the village boardroom to pour over nearly 150 pieces of art ranging from etchings by Rembrandt to original art by Flossmoor resident Michael Cheney. "It's great to see

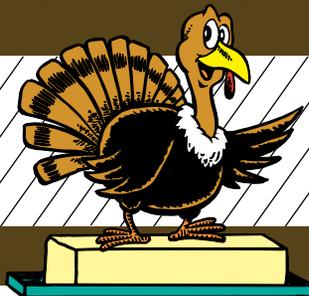
the community support," said Jeff Stevenson, a member of the Public Art Commission, which organized the event.

Resident Valerie Litchfield agreed. "Our sculpture park really enhances the neighborhood and the community, and people recognize that," she said. "And this auction offers art that's as diverse as the community."

Mayor Paul Braun was pleased to see such a large turnout. "This is a great evening," he said, noting that Flossmoor held an art auction 10 years ago that also proved popular. "You know what they say: art feeds the soul, and public art feeds the community."

Over \$10,000 was raised at the auction to benefit Flossmoor Public Art Program.

H-F Racquet & Fitness Club's 11th Annual



BUTTERBALL BURNER 5K FUN RUN

Friday, November 28 @ 9 am

Fee: \$12 Residents / \$15 Non-Residents
(Day of Race: \$17 Residents / \$20 Non-Residents)

Pre-registration closes Tue., 11/25 @ noon.
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check-in Time: 8 am Start Time: 9 am Age: All Ages



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These Residents Really Care About Flossmoor

This year at the sixth annual Flossmoor Resident Meet and Greet, the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission recognized the outstanding efforts of several residents who have served the community in many ways and are a genuine real asset to the Village through the first Flossmoor Cares Resident Recognition Award.

Margaret and Matt Epperson are the kind of neighbors who can make a new homeowner glad to have chosen Flossmoor. "When our family moved to Flossmoor, we were overwhelmed with gratitude for the kindness Margaret showed to our family," said Gabrielle Mykoniatis. Margaret has been involved the community in many ways, from founding the Novel Dames book club for local readers to serving on the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District Leisure committee. Margaret has reached out to neighbors to make sure they are aware of events in the neighborhood and in town. "We have lived in several [cities] and we have never encountered such a friendly neighbor as Margaret," Gabrielle said. Resident Joan Shimkus, who has been glad to receive neighborhood news updates as well as homemade soup and other goodies from the Eppersons over the years, noted their many contributions to the village and added, "Flossmoor

should be very proud to have this family in the community."

For more than 20 years, Janet Gustafson and her late husband, Kurt, amazed many people with their homemade gingerbread village. Spread over several tables in a room off the kitchen, Janet's edible holiday town featured many different buildings, hundreds of tiny figurines, and even trains, all illuminated by dozens of strings of Christmas lights. Starting in July each year, Janet made all the gingerbread and icing for the impressive village from scratch. She and her husband generously welcomed residents to view the gingerbread village in their Flossmoor home each holiday season. Affectionately known as "the gingerbread lady," Janet became a household name and the pride of Flossmoor. Her work was featured by WGN and ABC television as well as in area newspapers.

Richard Krumb provided invaluable assistance to police officers searching for a resident who suffered from dementia and wandered from his home in June. "The search party consisted of a Park Forest police dog along with several Flossmoor residents. Although it became dark and more difficult to find the man, Richard continued the search. "If it had not been for the quick thinking



(Left to right) Mayor Paul Braun, Richard Krumb, Janet Gustafson, Margaret Epperson, Joan Shimkus, and Mary Muse, Community Relations Commission Chair (not shown: Jennifer Molski, Tony Manos, and Matt Epperson).

and action by Mr. Krumb, the results may have ended differently," said Flossmoor officer Brian Brosnan.

Jennifer Molski and her husband, Tony Manos, know Flossmoor is the kind of town where residents will pitch in; all you have to do is ask them. In 2010, they came up with a creative community-based project that also would have a great environmental impact, and the Community Christmas Tree Recycling Drive was born. Offered free of charge, it gave homeowners who enjoy a live Christmas tree to keep it out of local landfills by simply bringing it to Irons Oaks.

To ensure the project's success, they reached out to several like-minded groups that were already invested in environmental issues. After inviting local businesses, organizations, churches and individuals to serve as sponsors and partners, they created an advertising campaign to help spread the word. With their recycling program, they have saved more than 1,000 trees from the landfills and sparked an annual event. The Community Relations Commission would like to thank all the nominated residents for their outstanding work to make Flossmoor a place where all are welcomed, cared for and valued.



Saint John's Cookie Walk

The Church of Saint John the Evangelist will host its 17th Annual Cookie Walk on December 6. The event will be held at the Church (2640 Park Drive) from 9-11 a.m. in the church's undercroft and is open to the public. Proceeds raised from

this event goes to local charities, such as PADS, South Suburban Family Shelter, Rich Township Food Pantry, and Respond Now.

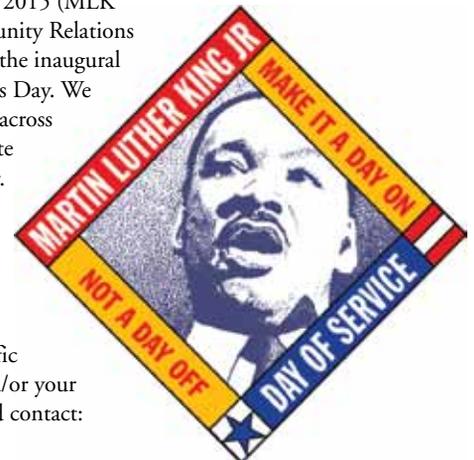
For more information, please contact St. John's Church at 708.708.4150.

Flossmoor Community Cares Day

On Monday, January 19, 2015 (MLK Day), the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission will be hosting the inaugural Flossmoor Community Cares Day. We will be joining communities across the country as they participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

We will join forces with local non-profit organizations to open up service opportunities for the whole community. For specific information on how you and/or your organization can get involved contact: krichardson@flossmoor.org.

Learn more about the inspiration for this day at www.mlkday.gov. Hope to see you there!



Take a Family Picture for the Flossmoor Yearbook



Thomas' Photographic of Homewood is pleased to announce the start of their newest community project: The Flossmoor Yearbook. In 2011 and 2013 the Thomas' created town yearbooks for Homewood, which brought the community together by photographing people in front of their homes, businesses, organizations, churches and events.

The goal was to create a piece of modern history and togetherness for the town. Now, the Thomas' plan the next phase of their community outreach by creating a town yearbook for Flossmoor.

As in Homewood, the yearbooks will be donated to the Library and

the Village. Participation is easy; the Thomas' come out to your home or business and professionally take portraits of people and property. All house numbers and street names are erased from the picture to protect people's privacy.

To make an appointment you can call 708.960.4265. There is a \$25 fee for participants to offset the cost of production. This fee includes a copy of the photo for you to keep. This project is solely funded by Thomas' Photographic.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/FlossmoorYearbook>.

Public Works is Ready for Winter Snow

Last year will definitely be a winter we will not forget. However, Flossmoor Public Works is prepared for the unpredictable winter weather. Remember, it takes a few hours after the snow has stopped to clear Flossmoor's roadways and can take even longer during heavy or extended snowfalls. When driving, please give snowplows plenty of room. Large plows take longer to stop, have multiple blind spots and make frequent backing maneuvers. Keep in mind that the Village is not responsible for plowing all the roadways within the Village limits. If you have specific concerns about road conditions, please check the list below.

- Salting of streets in the Central Business District and along main roads, key intersections, hills, and curves is conducted whenever icy or slippery conditions become hazardous. The Village tries to balance its priority of ensuring public safety with concern for the severe pollutant effects of salt on the environment.
- Snowplowing begins when snow accumulated 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, main



streets, collector streets and parking lots, local through streets, and cul-de-sacs and alleys.

- Please take the time to shovel the public sidewalks for the benefit of students, mail carriers and other pedestrians. It's courteous and the right thing to do... and contrary to rumors, there is no liability per state law! Do not push snow into or across the street.
- Remember, storm water moves through the community by way of several drainage systems: creeks, streams, storm sewers, ditches and over land. Debris in any of these systems can obstruct rainwater and cause overflow onto roads and in yards which may result in flooding.

The Cost of Flood Insurance

The price of a flood insurance policy ranges depending on where a property is located. In high flood risk areas, where coverage is often mandatory, policies cost more. However, most of the country falls within the moderate-to-low risk areas for flooding.

In moderate-to-low risk areas, where the risk of flooding is still very real, customers have lower cost flood insurance options available in the form of the NFIP's Preferred Risk Policies (PRP). Even though flood insurance isn't federally required, anyone can be financially vulnerable to floods. In fact, people outside of mapped high-risk flood areas file nearly 25% of all National Flood Insurance Program flood insurance

claims and receive one-third of Federal Disaster Assistance for flooding. When it's available, disaster assistance is typically a loan you must repay with interest.

Homes and businesses may qualify for the low-cost Preferred Risk Policy, with premiums starting as low as \$129 for a home and its contents. Many consumers don't know that the new PRP policies are also available to business owners and renters. Customers have the option to purchase building coverage, contents coverage, or both. Building policies start at \$20,000 and go up to \$250,000. Contents coverage starts at \$8,000 and goes up to \$100,000. For more information about flood insurance visit www.floodsmart.gov.

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Flossmoor Fest Thank You!

The annual Flossmoor Fest was a great day of community spirit, food, music and family fun. The Village Board, Flossmoor Fest Committee, and village staff extend their thanks and appreciation to the following companies, organizations and families for their donation and support of the 2014 Fest.

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Winterfest

Celebrate the Holiday Season
Saturday, December 6, 2014
 Downtown Flossmoor

2:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Children's Story Time at the Flossmoor Public Library
 Guest Reader: Mayor Paul Braun

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Children's Holiday Party
 at the Flossmoor Public Library
 Visit with Santa • Balloon Artists • Face Painting
 Caricature Artist • Games • Crafts
 Hot Chocolate – Provided by the H-F Lions Club

5:00 p.m.

Holiday Tree Lighting
 with the H-F Vikings Choir

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BUSINESS *spotlight*



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Flossmoor Welcomes New Business that Promotes Beauty and Fashion

For Sheila Gaden, choosing Flossmoor for her beauty salon was an easy choice. She opened House of Glamour at 19109 Crawford Avenue after working at the salon that had been located in the same place, Enhancing Beauty, for a year and a half.

"It's a great location with everything you need when you're running a business," she said. "And the owners of the restaurant next

door, Captain Hook's, are really nice."

Open since July 1, the hair salon also offers manicures and pedicures.

But some customers may come for Debbie Doo's Boutique, operated at the same location by Debbie Davis Sanders, a client of Gaden's. "The boutique offers clothing for every occasion," she said. The two businesses are separate entities but operate under the same roof. "It's a joint venture," Gaden said.



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Here's a New Year's Resolution for 2015



Looking for a meaningful resolution for the new year? Switching from plastic to reusable bags can make a big difference for the environment, both locally and globally.

Flossmoor's Community Relations Green Committee is inviting residents to make the commitment through its Start the Bag Habit campaign. Starting this fall, shoppers who head to businesses in town are likely to see the "Start a Bag Habit" logo in windows and on countertops of local businesses to remind you to recycle.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually. "We're trying to get our neighbors to avoid the use of plastic bags because so many have been made, they've become a problem," said Ernie Ratowitz, Green Committee member. "You see them all over, caught in trees and bushes, and they damage the environment. The average family accumulates 60 bags in only four trips to the store. Many do not realize that you cannot recycle them through Homewood Disposal. Businesses like Jewel, Walmart and Target have designated plastic bag recycling bins. However, it's best to switch to reusable bags."

How can YOU help the Earth everyday?

PLEDGE TO Start a BAG Habit

Pick a habit or two that works for YOU...

1. Choose reusable bags when you shop.

Keep several compact, reusable bags stashed in convenient places in your home & car.

2. Learn to say "No bag, please."

Only have a couple of items? Say "no" to a bag.

3. Recycle Right!... Think Clean & Dry

Clean and dry plastics can easily be recycled at such local stores as Walmart, Jewel and Target.



Dry Cleaning Bags • Air Pillows • Retail Bags • Case Wrappers • Household Item Wraps • Produce & Bread Bags
Collect and recycle locally! ... These items are not currently accepted curbside.

Visit flossmoor.org for the latest recycling news!



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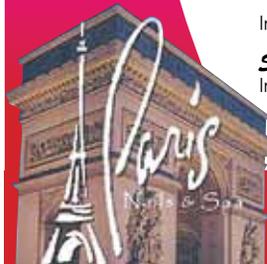


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Let Your Christmas Tree Help the Local Forest

One of the great scents of the holiday season comes from a live Christmas tree, a touch of pine forests and the great north woods. You can help local forests thrive by dropping off your tree at Irons Oaks at Vollmer Road and Western Avenue December 26 to January 18 during the Christmas Tree Recycling Program.



The easiest day to participate will be on January 3, from 9 am to 1 pm. Volunteers will help with “drive through” drop-offs that let residents stay in their cars. “For those who want to end the holiday season on a festive note, there also will be a winter bonfire and free hot chocolate that day, a feature that’s become popular with families establishing a Christmas tradition of recycling their tree,” said Jennifer Molski, who launched the program with her husband Tony Manos in 2010.

This year, the drop-off period has been extended from two to three weeks in order to save even more trees from area landfills. While Illinois regulations

prohibit yard waste including leaves, lawn clippings and branches from landfill, Christmas trees are permitted, taking up space and wasting nutrients. With the Christmas Tree Recycling Program, however, trees are mulched on site and the material is spread on the trails at Irons Oaks. “Without the recycled trees, the H-F Park District would have to buy mulch,” Molski said, “so recycling your Christmas tree is a way to give back to the local community.”

Trees must be completely bare and free of any ornaments, plastic bags, lights, tinsel and wire. Trees should be placed on the pile with the trunks facing Vollmer Road. No wreaths or garland (with wire or plastic) can be accepted, however.

Those who want to recycle their holiday lights are invited to drop them off between November 24 and January 19 at Flossmoor Village Hall, H-F Ice Arena, H-F Raquet Club, Irons Oaks and Wiley’s Grill. For additional information, go to www.hfchristmastreerecycling.com.

Making It Easy for Neighbors to Go Green

When it comes to cleaning up after the holidays, Chrissy and Scott Steiner look at the job in a big way. The Flossmoor couple is so glad to support the Village’s Christmas Tree Recycling Program that they pick up the trees for nearly a dozen family and friends at curbside and bring them to Irons Oaks at Vollmer Road and Western Avenue every year.

Their son, Scott, pitches in as well, helping to fill the back of the family’s pickup truck, a job that earns community service hours for H-F High School, where he’s a junior. “We have a lot of family who live in town, and my husband offered to pick up the trees for them and some of our neighbors,” said Chrissy. “We’re happy to do it because we want to support Jennifer Molski,” who launched the program with her husband, Tony Manos.

Chrissy Steiner said her eco-friendly efforts go back to her college days. “I’ve always been into recycling,



Tony Manos, Scott and Chrissy Steiner

even before it was popular,” she said. She took an environmental science class and persuaded her sorority sisters to begin recycling before it became common practice. As a mother and homeowner, she said she developed the reusable bag habit before that became common, too.

Happy to be acknowledged for her own eco-friendly work and the efforts of her family, Chrissy was glad to share the glow of the spotlight. “Jen and I have been friends for a long time, and she’s really the hero in all of this,” she said. “We’re so proud of her.”



Common Myths About Tree Recycling

Myth #1: My disposal company recycles my tree.

Fact: Trees left at the curb are not recycled; they are dumped into landfills, the one natural product permitted by Illinois law.

Myth #2: It takes too much time.

Fact: It’s much quicker than buying the tree. If you save the twine and stash it in the glove compartment, you’ll have it on hand after the holiday. With branches extended, the tree is easy to tie onto the vehicle’s roof.

Myth #3: It’s not worth the effort.

Fact: When you recycle your tree, you free up landfill space, support the environment at Irons Oaks and cut expenses for your park district.



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