

FLOSSMOOR

VOLUME 22 \ NUMBER 1 \ SPRING 2012

news



USE YOUR **POWER** TO VOTE

Referendum March 20

Village vote
could change
your electric bill.
See page 7
for details.

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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

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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:

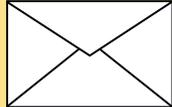
PAM STASIL

THE TIMES
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708/891.0744

Pamela.Stasil@nwtimes.com

CORRECTION

In our recognition of the 2011 Flossmoor Fest donors in the Winter newsletter, we regret that we did not acknowledge Ronald and Dennise Banks for their donation at the Bronze level. Thank you for your contribution.



Sign up for the Flossmoor electronic newsletter!

Would you like Village news delivered directly to your e-mail inbox? Then sign up for the Flossmoor E-News. The e-news provides current Village information and events bi-monthly that are of interest to residents and the business community. To join, go to www.flossmoor.org.

To place an advertisement in the Flossmoor News, please contact Pam Stasil of Lee Publications at 708-891-0744.

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DATES to know

MARCH 1

2012 Vehicle Stickers and Animal Tags on Sale

MARCH 20

2012 General Primary Election

APRIL 1

Family Health Fair (FREE)
James Hart School
in Homewood

APRIL 16

Last Day to Purchase Vehicle Stickers and Animal Tags before Fee Increase
Village Hall will be open until 6 p.m.

APRIL 21

H-F Park District's Earth Day Celebration at Irons Oaks

APRIL 25

15th Anniversary of South Suburban Diversity Dinners at Rich South High School

APRIL 28

Flossmoor Baseball Opening Day / Parade

MAY 5

H-F Parks Pride Day (All Parks)

MAY 15

Lawn Sprinkling Ban Begins

MAY 16

Flossmoor Service League Annual Housewalk

MAY 25

Flossmoor Farmers Market Plant Sale (Market begins June 8)

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Salon receives top honor, law firm opens doors

Jonathan Kane Salon and Spa recently was named to the SALON TODAY 200 by *Salon Today* magazine, the top business publication for salon and spa owners. The magazine's 15th annual SALON TODAY 200 issue profiled the selected salons in its January 2012 edition. The 200 salons were selected for their best business practices from applications submitted by *Salon Today* readers.

The magazine honored applicants in 11 different best practice categories. Jonathan Kane Salon and Spa was honored for best sales growth. "Our editors recognize that strong business leadership requires the mastery of a number of different best business practices," said Stacey Soble, editor-in-chief of *Salon Today*. "The salons named to the SALON TODAY 200 for 2012 not only proved they excel in one or more of these areas, they also have created rewarding environments for their staff members

and standout experiences for their clients. Their willingness to share their success offers our readers important business benchmarks and fresh, sales-building ideas."

"We have worked hard and it is paying off with accolades like this," said owner Larry Kane. "We took a fresh approach to retail sales by showing the benefits of recommending retail products and how it builds a strong foundation of loyal customers."

The Law Offices of Christopher A. Watts, located in downtown Flossmoor's Brown Building, is a boutique firm providing legal services for nearly 20 years, with the last five at the Flossmoor location. The firm specializes in handling family law, real estate and estate planning matters.

According to Attorney Watts, building and leaving a legacy of our lives' work

is the goal of many. Estate planning includes both getting and leaving your legal house in order. It is estimated only 15-20% of people over 50 have a will. Dying without a will requires the estate to be divided according to Illinois statute and will go into probate. To ensure your wishes are met, and not at the state's

direction, Watts recommends a plan that includes a well-prepared will or trust that includes health care directives.

"My practice centers on three areas - 1) family, 2) real estate and 3) wills. It all comes down to where we live, whom we live with, and what happens to us when it is all said and done," states Watts.



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www.jonathankanesalonspa.com
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Flossmoor Resident Turns 100

Longtime Flossmoor resident Juanita Carrere Mitchell celebrated her 100th birthday in December at a party at the Flossmoor Country Club that was attended by over 100 guests including her daughter Mary Muse and Mayor Paul Braun.

Born on December 11, 1911 in Nestor, Louisiana, Juanita came to Flossmoor in 1996 at the age of 85, becoming involved with the Ballantrae Community Association and the Beautification Committee. Today, she is still active in the Bells of Ballantrae and a member of the Cerar Memorial Presbyterian Church, the Sarah Circle and Presbyterian Women.

Flossmoor Resident to Represent Illinois in Miss USA

Congratulations to Flossmoor resident Ashley Hooks for being crowned Miss Illinois USA in November 2011. Ashley is a Homewood Flossmoor High School alum. At H-F, Hooks excelled academically and athletically, being awarded the presidential scholarship for her academic achievements.



Involved in different organizations from domestic violence and AIDS in Africa to pedestrian safety and the universal school breakfast for Chicago Public Schools, Ashley believes she has more than beauty to bring to the Miss USA contest. Her strong work ethic, leadership skills and commitment to serving her community are what judges are looking for in the next Miss USA. Miss Hooks will represent Illinois at the Miss USA 2012 Pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada in the summer of 2012.

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Illinois' Yellow Dot Program Provides First Responders Additional Information in Critical Situations

The Illinois Department of Transportation recently introduced a new program, the Yellow Dot Program, that may benefit those involved in a traffic accident. The program helps to provide first responders to an accident scene with important information about the vehicle's driver and passengers.



Those wishing to participate simply fill out a medical card that asks for basic information, a photo, medical conditions, allergies, current medications, etc. This completed card is then stored in the vehicle's glove box, and a yellow dot sticker is placed on the back window to alert the first responder to look for the medical card.

According to Sergeant Clint Wagner, "When you are involved in a car accident, every second counts. The Yellow Dot Program takes the questioning and the guess work out of medical treatment; it can save lives."

Those interested in obtaining a medical card and yellow dot sticker or want to learn more information about the Illinois Yellow Dot Program, visit www.yellowdotillinois.org.

Animal License Tags

All dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed with a 2012-2013 tag by April 16. Animal tags may be obtained at the Village Hall. 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 Service League Annual Housewalk

The Flossmoor Service League will host its 57th Annual Housewalk on Wednesday, May 16th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch at the Flossmoor Country Club will be offered between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Lovely and unique Flossmoor and Olympia Fields homes will be featured, and proceeds benefit local southland charities. Tickets to the housewalk are \$25.00, and luncheon tickets are TBD. For additional information and to purchase tickets, please go to www.flossmoorserviceleague.org or visit us on Facebook.

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Community Food Drive Feeds Hundreds for the Holidays

The Community Relations Commission met their goal of feeding those in need this winter, but not without the support and generosity of the Flossmoor community. With help from students at Parker Jr. High School, Western Avenue School, Flossmoor Hills School, Heather Hill School and the residents of Flossmoor and surrounding communities, the Commission raised more than 3,000 lbs. of food for the Rich and Bloom Township pantries. The pantries provide food at no cost to low-income residents in our townships. It is the mission of these pantries to assist their clients in helping alleviate some of the hunger and frustration associated with low income.

Electronic Landfill Ban in Illinois

The Village wants to remind residents that as of January 1, electronics are prohibited from being placed at the curbside or in a waste container or recycling toter on your designated collection day.

Local Electronics Recyclers:

Salvation Army

150 North Halsted Street
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708.754.4859

Habitat ReStore

139 West Joe Orr Road
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708.756.2015



Vehicle Stickers Purchase

The Village of Flossmoor requires all vehicles registered to a Flossmoor address with the Illinois Secretary of State to purchase and properly affix the 2012 vehicle sticker after April 15 on the lower right passenger side of the windshield.

Vehicle stickers expire every year, and you can receive a \$50 ticket for not displaying a current sticker. In addition, a \$15 late fee will be added to all applications received after April 15. Stickers (a passenger car sticker is \$40) may be purchased at the Village Hall front counter during normal business hours. Applications can also be mailed or dropped in the drop box located in the Village Hall parking lot or Flossmoor Police Station lobby.

Help Support Flossmoor Fest!

Preparations are under way for Flossmoor Fest 2012. There is an opportunity to donate to this family friendly neighborhood festival by filling out the form below. In addition, you'll receive a complementary fest shirt with your donation of \$25 or more.



Flossmoor Fest 2012 Donation Form

YES, I/We would like to donate to Flossmoor Fest 2012.

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Village Seeks Lower Electric Rates for Residents and Small Commercial Businesses

In 1997, electricity in Illinois was deregulated and large energy users were able to begin purchasing from electricity suppliers other than Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) suppliers. So in 2009, the Illinois State legislature gave villages a tool to seek aggregated (bulk) electric supply prices for their residents and small businesses. In order to seek competitive prices for electrical services in one contract, the Village needs approval from residents through a referendum. The Village Board has placed the needed referendum regarding residential and business electrical services on the March 20 ballot. The referendum asks our residents if the Village should have the authority to seek competitive pricing bids for electrical services under a single contract that would include residents and small businesses. It is hoped that by combining electrical services for all individual customers into a single bid, electric

customers will have lower electric bills and save money. Communities currently participating in an electrical aggregation program are saving up to 20% in supply costs. Flossmoor is among approximately two hundred municipalities pursuing the process in 2012.

If the referendum passes, the Village of Flossmoor will take the necessary steps to seek competitive bids from several suppliers approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Even if the power is purchased from another supplier, residents and small businesses will

continue to be billed and serviced by ComEd.

There might be concern about how this program will affect your service with ComEd. ComEd is an energy delivery company, not a supplier. They do not own power plants, and they do not make electricity. They own the wires and distribution system. ComEd's only responsibility is to ensure delivery of electricity to your home or business. As a delivery customer, you will still call ComEd about power outages and repairs. ComEd will provide (and be held responsible for) the same level

of service and reliability despite your supplier.

Please note, if the voters approve the referendum, residents will still have the choice to "opt-out" of any negotiated program the Village establishes. In other words, an approval vote does not require voters to make any changes in their electrical service provider. If you are happy with your current service and do not want to change, you will not have to.

Should you need additional information on this referendum, please visit the Village's website (www.flossmoor.org) or call 1.800.856.3404.

The referendum reads:

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ARRANGE FOR THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR ITS RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL COMMERCIAL RETAIL CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE NOT OPTED OUT OF SUCH PROGRAM?"

YES

NO



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GREEN *corner*

Flossmoor Establishes Green Committee

In April of 2010, the Village Board created an environmental study group to explore opportunities for Flossmoor to become a more environmentally friendly community. From the final recommendation of the study group given to the Board last Summer, the Community Relations Commission Green Committee was formed. The nine member committee is responsible for developing educational programs along with activities and practices that promote environmental awareness and behavior by residents in an effort to create an environmentally conscientious community at the household level.

The Green Committee members are Maggie Bachus, Chair; Linda Tyson; Brian Zakem; Gregg Calpino; Tyler Thompson; Carrie Malfeo; Audrey Weidman; Barbara Ferrari; and Ernie Ratowitz. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Flossmoor Village Hall.

Flossmoor Community Spirit Shines Bright!



Residents of Flossmoor and surrounding suburbs joined together on January 7 & 14 at the Second Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program held at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center. This year's collection was remarkable and brought in 650 trees

which will be mulched and used on the paths and trails at Irons Oaks this Spring. New this year was a Holiday Light Recycling Program which received over 500 pounds of light strings that had lost their twinkle or were no longer working.

Donors traveled from all over the Chicago Southland area and as a small thank you were treated to goody bags which featured coupons for local area businesses in addition to an educational fact sheet on the benefits of real Christmas trees. The purpose of the fact sheet is to advance knowledge of real Christmas trees as a wise environmental choice. For example, did you know that approximately 100,000 North Americans are employed by the Christmas tree industry? In contrast 80% of all artificial trees are manufactured in China. By purchasing a real tree you are supporting the U.S. economy!

Sponsor John Flynn, a Realtor from Flossmoor notes "this annual holiday tradition is an opportunity for members of our community to collectively make a meaningful contribution to a global issue at the grassroots level." Once again, this program was presented by the Western Avenue School Green Team, Irons Oaks and the Molski and Manos families. The program founders noted that "Helping the environment has never been easier! We are very proud of our resident-led, simple and most importantly, free opportunity that's a win-win for all. By working together we are creating new synergies and building momentum that's more powerful than our individual efforts. We are so grateful to everyone for their participation and look forward to seeing you in 2013!"

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Flood Prevention Information



As the weather becomes moderate, a 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 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 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 708.957.4500. The following actions can protect residents and their neighbors from potential flooding:

- No grading or any alteration of the floodplain area 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.

Furthermore, Assistant Public Works Director, John Brunke, is a Certified Floodplain Manager. He can assist our residents with any questions regarding flooding issues and can be reached at 708.957.4100 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

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