

FLOSSMOOR

VOLUME 23 \ NUMBER 1 \ SPRING 2013

news



Water Conservation

Home Energy Rebates

Recycling

Responsible Gardening

***The Ways
That We...***

Think

GREEN

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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:

Eric Rechsteiner

THE TIMES
MEDIA COMPANY

708/891.0744

Eric.Rechsteiner@nwtimes.com

DATES to know

MARCH 1 - 2013 VEHICLE STICKERS GO ON SALE

Stickers may be purchased at the Village Hall by April 15.

MARCH 1 - 2013 ANIMAL LICENSE TAGS GO ON SALE

All dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed. Owners must provide a veterinarian's certificate or a current rabies inoculation at time of tag purchase. Animal tags must be purchased at Village Hall.

APRIL 15 - LAST DAY TO PURCHASE VEHICLE STICKERS AND ANIMAL TAGS

Vehicle stickers and animal tags not purchased and/or displayed after April 15 will be subject to a ticket and late fee.

APRIL 20 - FLOSSMOOR BASEBALL OPENING DAY CEREMONIES

Parade line-up is at 8:30 a.m. in the Parker Junior High parking lot.

APRIL 20 - EARTH DAY AT THE OAKS

Celebrate Earth Week with Irons Oaks! From 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Irons Oaks will have activities and programs about our Earth. Visit www.ironsoaks.com for full details.

APRIL 28 - FAMILY HEALTH FAIR AT JAMES HART SCHOOL IN HOMEWOOD, H-F SPORTS COMPLEX

Free health screenings and various blood tests offered at low costs. The fair is sponsored by the Homewood Rotary Club and Ingalls Health System.

MAY 4 - ANNUAL PARK PRIDE DAY

Join in the fun to beautify our parks this summer. Clean up begins at 8:30 a.m. at area parks. All volunteers get a free t-shirt and lunch at Irwin Park. Park captains are needed; call 708-957-0300 if you can help.

MAY 15 - LAWN SPRINKLING BAN BEGINS

The use of sprinklers for watering lawns or turf areas is prohibited between 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. from May 15 to September 15.

MAY 18 - HF BIKE RODEO AT JAMES HART SCHOOL IN HOMEWOOD FROM 11 - 2 P.M.

Young riders will have an opportunity to learn about bicycle safety and complete a bike circuit course to win prizes. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult to participate.

JUNE 1 & 2 HOMEWOOD AREA CHAMBER FINE ARTS FAIR DOWNTOWN FLOSSMOOR 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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AA+ Rating Helps Village Obtain Low Interest Rate on Phase I Water Main Bonds

The Village is moving forward with the water main replacement project for which residents approved \$7.28 million in general obligation bonds. The Village plans to replace approximately 6 miles of deteriorated water main over the next 8 years.

To finance the project, the Village is using \$7.28 million in general obligation bonds. The Village will borrow this amount in three phases over the next 8 years. In preparation for the bonds, the Village had a rating review, and, last month, the Village received exciting news. Once again, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services assigned its AA+ long-term rating to the Village of Flossmoor. The Village was able to maintain this rating from our last rating in 2009 in part due to its strong maintenance of the general fund balances with good financial management practices and moderate debt burden as a percentage of market value.

Subsequently, the Village received a favorable 2.54% interest rate for the Phase I series of general obligation bond proceeds that will finance the first phase of the water main replacement project. This interest rate is lower than the projected rate that for which the Village sought voter approval for in November. The lower interest rate will result in an estimated \$488,000 savings over the life of the Phase I bonds.

Based on planning discussions with the engineering consultant, Phase 1 as discussed as part of the November referendum has been divided into three separate design and construction phases. Below is a list of the areas that will be included in the Phase 1A work, representing about one-third of the Phase I bond. The Village intends to begin design engineering on Phase 1B work later

this fall. Approval of Phase 1A final design engineering and permits should be completed by early spring, with construction beginning in the summer. The Village will continue to update residents on the next steps in the project.

In February, the Village awarded HR Green the contract for design and engineering services for the water improvement program for Phase 1A. HR Green was selected by the Village Board due to their work on similar water main projects in other communities, such as New Lenox, Orland Park, Hinsdale, and Lake in the Hills.

Phase 1A: Construction Area

- Bob O'Link Road from Heather Hill Crescent to Oakmont Avenue
- Bunker Avenue from Brassie Avenue to Caddy Street
- Brassie Avenue from Second Private Road to DunDonald Road
- First Private Road from Brassie to the end
- Second Private Road from Brassie to the end
- Golfview Lane from Western Avenue to Robertson Lane
- Robertson Lane from Western Avenue to Golfview Lane
- Mast Court

The criteria utilized for selection of this group of projects were two-fold. First, all the projects were identified in the 2004 Water Study as areas that are in need of water main replacement. Secondly, these areas are experiencing a high frequency of water main breaks.



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President Preckwinkle Speaks in Flossmoor

On January 25, the Village of Flossmoor hosted the Chicago Southland Economic Development Quarterly Forum. Mayor Braun spoke to an audience of business owners, planners and elected officials about the recent happenings in Flossmoor, the new Meijer store, and the Green Committee's No Idling Campaign. Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle spoke about economic development in Cook County and voiced her support for the Meijer store in Flossmoor. She also addressed the County's overhaul of their procurement system that will eliminate redundancies and inconsistencies for businesses.



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Village Improves Flood Insurance Rating

In order to obtain flood insurance, a community must participate in minimum floodplain management activities that are required by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.

Last December, the Village received notice from the Insurance Service Office (ISO) of our improved rating of from a CRS Class 8 to a CRS Class 7 community. This upgrade should go into effect on May 1, 2013 after approval by FEMA. The result of this Class upgrade will result in an approximately 5% cost savings on flood insurance premiums for Flossmoor homeowners who are located in a special flood hazard area with base flood elevations determined.

School District Wins Distinction

Flossmoor School District 161's "Personalized Learning Using Digital Tools" has been named an Apple Distinguished Program. The District joins 103 other national programs that are recognized for exemplary learning environments as well as being centers of innovation, leadership and educational excellence. Flossmoor School District 161 began the program this year by purchasing iPads for 545 fourth and seventh grade students to utilize. As part of the program, more than 2,200 iPads will be distributed to all District students by 2016-17. An additional 300 iPads and 300 MacBook Airs were purchased for mobile carts that will be shared between district classrooms. For more information about this program and other school happenings, visit www.sd161.org.

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Energy Rebates Available for a Limited Time

More than half of total energy costs come from heating and cooling a home, and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate. Most homes also have incorrectly installed or insufficient amounts of attic insulation. Air sealing and insulating a home are some easy steps homeowners can take to reduce energy bills and create a more comfortable home for winter.

Energy Impact Illinois recently introduced a special, limited-time instant rebate for Chicago-area homeowners of up to \$1,750 to make energy efficient improvements to their homes. Funding for Energy Impact Illinois comes from the U.S. Department of Energy, Nicor and ComEd.

Call Energy Impact Illinois at 1-855-9-IMPACT to arrange an assessment from a certified partner of Energy Impact Illinois who will provide a two-hour inspection, a list of eligible work that needs to be performed and a cost estimate. Through the rebate program, homeowners will, on average, save 70% on the cost of the actual work. Energy Impact Illinois can also connect homeowners with attractive loan options with zero percent interest for the first year. For more information, visit www.energyimpactillinois.org.



Have You Tested Your Home for Radon?

Radon is the nation's second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking. Almost 50 percent of homes in Illinois and nearly 30 percent of the homes in Cook County that were tested by professionals had radon levels higher than what is recommended by the USEPA, according to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The Cook County Radon Awareness Program is encouraging residents to test their homes for radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can seep into a house through cracks in the basement floor and walls, around the openings of the sump pump or through crawl spaces. It's easy to test for radon and simple to fix your home, if necessary.

As part of Cook County's Radon Awareness Program, Cook County and the State of Illinois are distributing radon information and detector kits. The kit can be ordered for \$7 through the Cook County Department of Environmental Control. It can be obtained by mailing a check or money order, along with your return address, to: Cook County Department of Environmental Control, 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60602.

The only way to know if you have radon in your home is by testing. Should a home have high radon, the names of licensed mitigators who specialize in radon reduction can be provided. For questions, residents may call the Radon Awareness Hotline at 708.865.6177.



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Municipal Electric Aggregation: Aggressive Suppliers

The Village of Flossmoor has learned that a number of competing electric suppliers are targeting residents within the Village. Contact is being made on a door-to-door basis, but we have also heard of many instances where competing suppliers are contacting residents by phone. Electric Suppliers not associated with the Village's program are able to solicit door-to-door.

The competing suppliers are not representing the Village of Flossmoor or FirstEnergy Solutions, the chosen supplier of the Village, and are attempting to capitalize on the Village's municipal electric aggregation program.

We hope the checklist at the right will eliminate much of the confusion that these suppliers are causing. If there are any additional questions or concerns, please email or call Kimberly Richardson at krichardson@flossmoor.org or 708-335-5411.



As a Reminder to All Flossmoor Residents:

1. As of today, we know of no other offerings available with lower pricing (4.85 cents/kWhr).
2. You do not need to give your account number to anyone to participate in the Village's aggregation program.
3. You do not need to sign up with anyone to participate in the Village's aggregation program unless you are a new resident or switched from another supplier after July 2012. Sign up by calling FirstEnergy at 1-800-977-0500.
4. Your aggregating supplier will not contact you in person or by phone.
5. Anyone who signs up with a supplier will be excluded from the Village's aggregation program.

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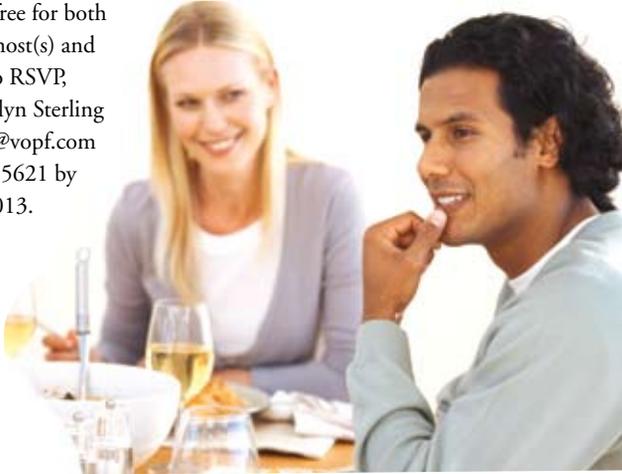
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Residents Break Bread Together at Annual Diversity Dinners

People throughout the south suburbs will gather together in celebration of the annual Diversity Dinners. The dinners celebrate the diversity that typifies and enriches our community and region. It promotes positive communication between people who might not otherwise have a chance to sit down and converse with one another. The dinners take place in homes, religious institutions and high schools.

Dinners will take place on Thursday, April 25 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Participation in Diversity Dinners is free for both the dinner host(s) and guest(s). To RSVP, contact Evelyn Sterling at esterling@vopf.com or 708.283.5621 by April 12, 2013.



Diversity Dinners bring people of different races, ethnicities, religions, lifestyles, and age together to share a meal, discuss their common goals, understand their differences, address misperceptions and offer solutions to strengthen our communities.

South Suburban Diversity Dinners

Thursday, April 25
Dinners begin at 7:00 p.m.
Catered dinners will be provided at various locations throughout the south suburbs

Register online at
diversitydinners.eventbrite.com

For more information, call 708.283.5621
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Enhancing Our Environment One Yard At a Time

Does your picture of suburban living include a perfectly groomed lawn surrounded by neatly-trimmed shrubs and overflowing pots of blooming annuals like impatiens, petunias and spikes? Did you ever consider that those common landscaping elements might be harming our health and the health of our environment? In a recent article in Organic Gardening Magazine titled "The Dark Side of Lawns", the author, Beth Huxta points out just some of the personal and environmental health issues directly linked to the amounts of fertilizers and pesticides we use to achieve the perfect suburban landscape.

Synthetic fertilizers not only wash away into our waterways, they also contribute to the growing CO2 levels in our atmosphere. Fertilizers and

pesticides have been found in our waterways, fish and wildlife. Those chemicals can also enter our homes from our shoes leading to an increase in indoor allergens and pollutants, affecting the health of allergy-sufferers, small children and pets. Also adding to air pollution levels is the regular use of gas-powered machines used to maintain our lawns and yards.

Some garden pesticides are now being linked to a 40% decrease in the American honeybee population over the past four years. Europe and Australia have already banned these pesticides to protect their honeybee populations. We need bees to grow apples, blueberries, cantaloupes, and broccoli, just to name a few of the many foods we consume that without bees to pollinate would not be available.

Several considerations to achieve a more climate-friendly garden include eliminating chemical fertilizers and pesticides, using native plants, composting, using manual implements like a reel mower, pruning shears and a rake. You can improve the quality of the air we breathe and burn more calories at the same time!

To learn more about climate-friendly gardens, please visit:
<http://www.chicagowilderness.org/what-we-do/climate-action/climate-action-plan-for-nature/>



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5 Tips to Conserve Water in the Bathroom

A great way to focus on helping the environment is by creating an eco-friendly household. Going green can make your home feel refreshed and new again, and the lower utility bills that come with being environmentally friendly are simply icing on the cake.

If you're interested in attempting a green project that can provide big water and energy savings, the ideal space to refresh is the bathroom. By updating a few key elements, a bathroom can be transformed into a relaxing retreat that saves energy, water and money. Saving water in the bathroom is an ideal way to lower utility bills, as the bathroom is one of the biggest water wasters in the home, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ultra high-efficiency toilets can help you save up to 18,000 gallons of water a year.

Here are five tips to help you save water and make your bathroom an eco-friendly, tranquil haven:

1. Save in Style

As the main water wasters in the home, toilets account for nearly 30 percent of indoor water consumption according to the EPA. However, water wasting can turn into water and monetary savings by replacing older, ineffective toilets with new high-efficiency toilets. Also, adding an eco-friendly toilet can help to update the style of the bath by providing a more contemporary feel to the room. To achieve the ultimate in savings, try installing an ultra-high-efficiency toilet, which can save up to 18,000 gallons of water a year and up to \$120 per year on water usage annually.

2. Small Leaks, Big Problems

One of the major causes of wasted water in the bathroom is faucet and toilet leaks, which can sometimes go undetected and waste hundreds of gallons of water. In fact, a small faucet drip can waste up to 20 gallons of water per day. Toilet leaks are also major problems that go undetected. Here is an easy test to see if your toilet is leaking. Drop a "toilet dye" tablet in the toilet tank and closely monitor the toilet bowl. If, without flushing, blue water appears in the bowl within half an hour, your toilet has a leak that needs to be repaired. Another way to see if you have a water leak in your home is to read your house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not stay exactly the same, then you have a leak. Call Public Works at 708.957.4100 if you need assistance in locating a leak in your home.

3. Shower Yourself in Savings

Taking a long, hot shower can be an ideal way to relax, but the increased water and utility bills may create an unneeded stress. By replacing an existing showerhead with a high-efficiency model, you can enjoy your shower while saving water and money. Some high-efficiency showerheads offer maximum performance and can save up to 8,000 gallons of water and over \$100 off utility bills annually, while also providing a spa-like feel for your bathroom.



4. Adjust Habits, Adjust the Bottom Line

The habits you develop in the bathroom can impact the amount of water you save, as well as the amount you waste. Simple habits, like turning off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving, can save water and help lower utility bills. Also, it helps to budget your time in the bathroom so you can save as much water as possible. For example, while waiting for hot water to run in your shower or sink, try accomplishing the tasks that don't require hot water so you can maximize your water use.

5. Faucet Focus

Updating your bathroom fixtures can provide water and energy savings without breaking the bank, if you know which products to choose. Installing faucet aerators in the bathroom can help regulate water pressure and save water. Some faucet aerators offer multiple, pressure compensating flow rates that provide significant savings over the standard 2.2 gallons per minute (GPM) faucet aerators. These varying flow rates allow the homeowner to use less water depending on the task at hand and ultimately save over 10,000 gallons of water a year and \$150 off utility and water bills annually.

(Reprinted courtesy of WaterUseItWisely.com)



Have you seen these bins? They are a WIN, WIN for the Community!

Is your new recycling tote filling up quickly due to paper? The Flossmoor Green Committee has another option for recycling all of your paper products responsibly. Use the Paper Retriever bins located at your local Flossmoor School District 161 schools. The bins are open for public use. Your neighborhood school will earn money for each ton of paper recycled in their bin each month, which to support the school's

Green initiatives.

All newspapers, magazines, school/office papers and junk mail are easily recycled; any staples are washed out during the paper recycling process. Items not accepted in the paper retriever bins are: food boxes, colored tissue paper, phone books or hard cover books. The easiest way to use your neighborhood paper retriever is to collect paper products in a paper grocery bag and drop it off anytime! Bins are always open. Recycling of newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and mail reduces landfill use, saves water and energy. The public is invited to join Parker Junior during their annual paper drive March 20-23, 2013.

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POLICE *news*

Chief Miller Retires, Deputy Chief Appointed to Chief



Mayor Braun poses with new Police Chief Michael Pulec (left) and retired Police Chief William Miller (right.)

After 35 years of service to the Village of Flossmoor, Police Chief William Miller retired at the end of January. Chief Miller started his career in Flossmoor in 1974 rising from the ranks of patrol officer to Deputy Chief of Police in 1999. He returned in 2007 as Police Chief of the Department.

During his tenure as Police Chief, he was responsible for the redevelopment of the Police Department's current policy manual that communicates clear and concise policy guidelines to the Department and established the Flossmoor Administrative Adjudication Program, along with the very popular Citizen Police Academy. The Village of Flossmoor thanks Bill for the significant impact he has made in Flossmoor and wishes him and his family success, health and happiness in the future.

Michael Pulec, who has been Deputy Chief since 2006, was appointed Flossmoor's new Police Chief upon Miller's departure. Chief Pulec has served the Village of Flossmoor since 1992, rising from the ranks of Patrol Officer to Deputy Chief, a position to which he was appointed in 2006. Prior to serving the Village of Flossmoor, Deputy Chief Pulec served the South Chicago Heights Police Department for 5 ½ years as both a Patrol Officer and Sergeant. "I believe we have made a very good decision to appoint Deputy Chief Pulec to Police Chief as he is genuinely committed to the Flossmoor Police Department and the community. He is focused on crime control, prevention and positive community partnerships. Further, Flossmoor is very fortunate to have a quality candidate such as Chief Pulec and to be able to promote from within the Department," states Mayor Paul Braun.

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Sergeant Named Deputy Chief Police

The Village is pleased to announce the appointment of Sergeant Tod Kamleiter to Deputy Police Chief. Kamleiter joined the Flossmoor Police Department in 1999 as a Patrol Officer and was promoted to Sergeant in 2004. In addition to his regular duties, he most notably created the highly successful Electronic Community Oriented Policing (ECOP), a public awareness and communication program that opens the lines of communication between the residents and the Police Department, which has been credited with crime reduction and prevention in Flossmoor. For the last 13 years, Kamleiter has worked extensively with local schools both as a D.A.R.E. officer and a police liaison to the Homewood-Flossmoor High School. In 2009, he along with members of the Homewood Police Department and H-F Park District developed the H-F Bike Rodeo, a children bike safety program. Tod's years of experience and community involvement will be an asset to the management of the Department.

Officer Promoted to Sergeant

The Flossmoor Police Department is proud to announce the promotion of Officer Keith Taylor to Sergeant, to replace the position left vacant by the appointment of Tod Kamleiter to Deputy Chief. Taylor, who underwent a vigorous promotional process with the Fire and Police Commission, received the highest placement on the eligibility list. Taylor is a 3 1/2- year veteran of the Police Department and has a reputation as a proactive officer on patrol. He is certified as a South Suburban Emergency Response Team (SSERT) and gang enforcement officer. A graduate of Hillcrest High school, Taylor is a veteran of the US Navy and previously worked in the Cook County Sheriff's Department, Corrections Division, as a Drill Instructor in the Boot Camp Program. He currently attends Calumet College of St. Joseph pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Safety Management.



Flossmoor Welcomes New Police Officer

Daniel Weaver is the newest officer in the Flossmoor Police Department. Officer Weaver completed Police Academy training last December and is now beginning his 13-week field officer training program in the Department. Officer Weaver is a graduate of Homewood-Flossmoor High School and comes to the Department from the Cook County Sheriff's Department, Corrections



Division, where he was employed for five years as a Drill Instructor in the Boot Camp Program.

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Longtime Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday

Else Jeneson, better known to friends and family as Snookie, was honored in December by the Village Board in celebration of her 100th birthday. Born on November 26, 1912 in Cincinnati,

Ohio, Snookie and her husband George came to Flossmoor in 1946 valuing the open space for her children, Jack and Lynn.

Mrs. Jeneson has devoted her life serving her community as a member of the Flossmoor Infant Welfare Society, as well as serving as President, being an active member of the Flossmoor Community Church when the congregation met at the Community House, a Den Leader for Cub Scouts, and one of the first volunteers at Flossmoor Community Church's Bargain Box. Snookie has seen many changes in Flossmoor over the years, yet still loves the community.



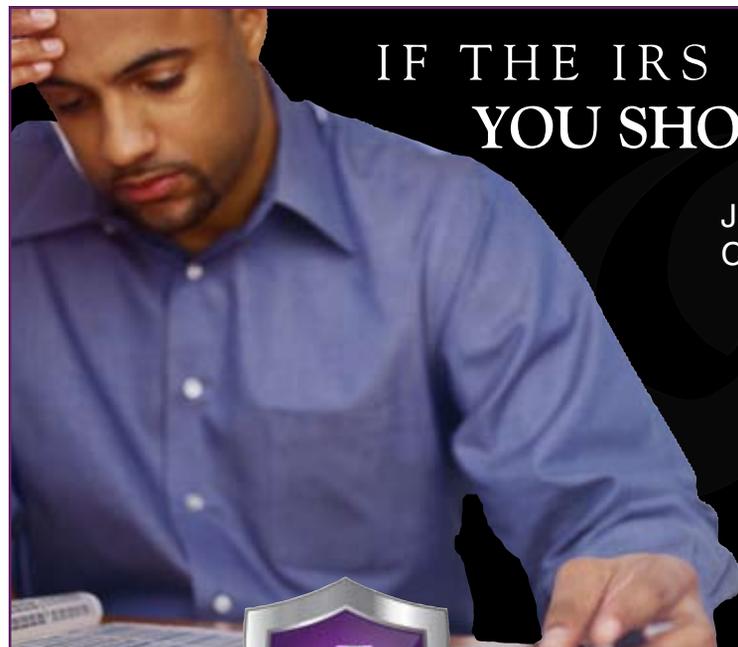
Mayor Paul Braun presents a resolution to Else "Snooki" Jeneson for her 100th birthday.

New Ordinance Helps Small Businesses

The Center for Dental Excellence is the first small business to take advantage of the recent amendments to the Village of Flossmoor's Flashing or Moving Sign ordinance. The new sign arrived and was installed on December 20, complete with a yellow toothbrush on top. In the words of Flossmoor resident Dr. Charles Greenebaum, "We appreciate the fact that the Village of Flossmoor understands the needs of small businesses and was willing to update their ordinances. When small businesses succeed, the entire community succeeds."

High School Artwork to Join the Sculpture Garden

This spring, the Art Commission will unveil a new sculpture to the Public Art Program. The sculpture called Bell Tower is the first collaboration between the Art Commission and the Homewood-Flossmoor High School's renowned art program. Art students at the direction of art teacher Greg Petecki will construct the sculpture. The sculpture will stand 14 feet tall with a brass bell in the middle, symbolizing the importance of education in the community from the earliest documented school to our current award-winning High School. The sculpture will be placed in front of the Flossmoor Public Library for the next three years. An unveiling ceremony will occur in May or early June.



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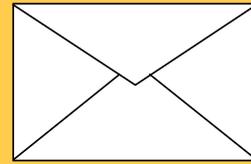
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The Flossmoor News is circulated to all residents and businesses in the Village of Flossmoor. Comments or questions can be directed to the Office of the Village Manager, 2800 Flossmoor Road, Flossmoor, IL 60422. To place an advertisement in the Flossmoor News, please contact Eric Rechsteiner of Lee Publications at 708-891-0744.

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