

FLOSSMOOR

news

VOLUME 24 \ NUMBER 1 \ SPRING 2014



Artist's rendering

Breaking New Ground

Meijer brings major new
development to Flossmoor

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Village OFFICIALS

Paul Braun, *Mayor*
 James Crum, *Trustee*
 Perry Hoag, *Trustee*
 Phillip 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@nwtimes.com

DATES to know

Tuesday, April 15 Vehicle Sticker and Animal Tags Deadline

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

Thursday, April 24 Diversity Dinners

Find more information on page 9. Dinners begin at 7 p.m. To register visit www.diversitydinners.com

**April 21 - 26
 Earth Week at Prairie State College**
 Find more information on page 11. Visit www.prairiestate.edu or call 708.708.3500 for more information.

Saturday, April 26 Flossmoor Baseball Opening Day Ceremonies

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

Saturday, April 26 Earth Day at Irons Oaks

Celebrate Earth Week with Irons Oaks! From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Irons Oaks will have activities and programs about our earth. Climb on a tower as tall as a maple tree, learn about our amazing planet from Mad Science and visit our Discovery Museum. Lend a hand and help us remove garlic mustard, then enjoy a hot dog by the fire. There are plenty of family friendly activities to help you celebrate Mother Earth. Visit www.ironsoaks.com for full details.

Saturday, May 3 28th Annual Park Pride Day

Park work begins at 8:30 a.m. at all parks with lunch served at 11 a.m. at Irwin Park. Join in the fun as volunteers come together to beautify their parks for summer! We'll plan the work to be done, while you provide the manpower. All volunteers get a free t-shirt and lunch provided by local businesses. Get outside and socialize with your family, friends and neighbors - make it a party! Park Pride Day is a great opportunity for kids, scout groups, churches and other service organizations to give back to the community.

Saturday, May 10 H-F Bike Rodeo at Parker Jr. High School

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Young riders will have an opportunity to learn about bicycle safety and

complete bike circuit courses to win prizes. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult to participate.

May 15 - September 15 Lawn Sprinkling Ban Begins

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

Saturday, June 7 & Sunday, June 8 Fine Arts Fair in Downtown Flossmoor

Presented by Homewood Area Chamber, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

June 13 - Every Friday Through October 17 Farmers Market Begins

Flossmoor Public Library Parking Lot
 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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Meijer Development to Break New Ground this Spring by Patricia Houlihan

Construction for Flossmoor's largest new retail development in decades will begin this spring as the Village welcomes Meijer, the Michigan-based grocery and superstore, to the northeast corner of Vollmer Road and Crawford Avenue.

The project has been five years in the making. "The Village Board and I are extremely pleased to have Meijer, which is a national retailer with the reputation of helping communities become better places to live, work, and play, join the Flossmoor community" said Mayor Paul Braun. "Not only will this major retail development be a terrific economic engine for the Village, Meijer will bring a new level of service and convenience to our residents and the southland area."

In December, Trustees unanimously approved the plan, which calls for a 193,000-square-foot store, three outlots on Crawford and two outlots and a gas station on Vollmer. The development will wrap around the existing BP gas station. "We hope to see other regional and national chains located in the outlots," said Village Manager Bridget Wachtel. "They won't be developed for at least another year, but we expect to see family-friendly businesses." Two additional outlots will remain undeveloped as green space near the adjacent Ballantrae subdivision.

Flossmoor has not seen a development of this size since the construction of Flossmoor Commons in the 1970s. Meijer officials first approached Flossmoor in 2007 about a retail opportunity at the Vollmer Road location, which was appealing because of its proximity to Interstate 57 as well as the distance from other retail markets in Matteson and Homewood.

In working out the details, Meijer has not asked the village for one penny. While the property is part of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district established in 1991 to spur development, the TIF expires this year. Flossmoor's only economic involvement was to buy 20 acres of foreclosed property in the area, then sell nine acres to Meijer to help create the final parcel.

Construction is scheduled to begin this spring with the widening of Crawford Avenue from Vollmer Road to Ballantrae Way to accommodate a turn lane into the Meijer property. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Transportation will begin work to install a stoplight on Vollmer Road opposite of Traditions Road in neighboring Olympia Fields.

Based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Meijer operates 204 supercenters and grocery stores in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. In the south suburbs, new stores are slated for Flossmoor, Mokena and Evergreen Park. "A pioneer of the one-stop shopping concept, Meijer stores have evolved through the years to include expanded fresh produce and meat departments, as well as pharmacies, electronics and garden centers. And while it's long sold apparel, the stylish new direction Meijer is taking aims to recharge the category in a big way," Meg Major recently wrote in *Progressive Grocer*, a trade publication.

The Flossmoor store, a 24-hour facility that will sell groceries and general merchandise and have a pharmacy and a garden center, will be under construction in 2014 and expected to open in 2015. To see plans for the development, visit www.flossmoor.org

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Vehicle Sticker and Animal License Tag Purchase Reminder



Residents with vehicles registered to a Flossmoor address with the Illinois Secretary of State are required to purchase an annual vehicle sticker. Stickers can be purchased now through April 15, 2014. Once purchased, the sticker must be displayed on the passenger side of the front windshield of vehicle by April 15 to avoid fines. This year's sticker depicts the Village's "No Idling" initiative, which encourages drivers to idle their vehicle less, which helps improve the air quality.

Dogs and cats six months or older are required to be licensed with a 2014-2015 tag by April

15, 2014. Owners must provide a veterinarian's certificate of a current rabies inoculation.

Vehicle stickers and animal tags can be purchased at the Village Hall front counter during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), mailed, or dropped in the drop box in the Village Hall parking lot or the Flossmoor Police Station lobby.

Assistant Village Manager Retires

After 26 years of service to the Village of Flossmoor, Assistant Village Manager and Planning Director Patrick Finn retired at the end December. Patrick's long and distinguished career in public service started in his home state of New York as a planner working with neighborhood-based advocacy groups. During his tenure with the Village of Flossmoor, Patrick helped guide and facilitate the development of several residential neighborhoods in Flossmoor including Southern Heather Hill, East Pinewood, Harvard Road/Yale Court, Madison Meadows, Park Place, Baythorne, Chestnut Hill and Ballentrae. He also assisted with facilitating the development of the new Flossmoor Public Library, Ingalls Family Center in Flossmoor, Family Video, Alliance Orthopedic, Children of America, CVS, Family Video and the soon to be constructed Meijer.



The Village of Flossmoor thanks Pat for the significant impact he has made in Flossmoor and wishes him and his family success, health and happiness in the future.

Keeping an Eye on Waterways

As we move into spring after an eventful winter, we want to remind residents that storm water moves through the community by way of several drainage systems: creeks, streams, storm sewers, ditches and over land. Debris from storms in any of these systems can obstruct rainwater and cause overflow onto roads and in yards, which may result in flooding. While the Village maintains several components of our storm sewer system, we still need your help! We ask that you consider removing weeds, branches, leaves or litter that could impede the flow of water through ditches, detention areas and storm drains near your home.

Not only is this maintenance important for the flow of storm water, it also prevents stagnant water in which mosquitoes may breed. Your help is very much appreciated. Also, if you know of any unapproved changes in the drainage system, such as filling in or rerouting creeks, streams or ditches, or you aware of a maintenance situation that needs our attention, please contact Inspectional Services at 957.4101 or Public Works at 957.4500.

Electric Aggregation First Year Results

Residents who participated in the Village of Flossmoor's Electric Aggregation Savings Program have enjoyed savings on their ComEd bills since the program's inception in summer 2013. Residential and small commercial accounts received a fixed rate of 4.85 cents per kilowatt for a two-year term with FirstEnergy – a significant savings versus the ComEd rate which adjusts monthly, but as of February 2014, was 6.023 cents per kWh (a 19 percent reduction). In the program's first year, participating Flossmoor households saved on average of \$341 in electric supply costs, a cumulative Village-wide savings of \$970,000.

New residents are not automatically enrolled in the program, but all are welcome to join at any time by calling FirstEnergy at 888-651-5200. You must give your ComEd account number, service address and specifically request the Flossmoor fixed rate of 4.85 cents. There is no fee to join, or to leave the program. Those enrolled with other suppliers should first check with their current supplier to determine if they are subject to any early termination fee before joining the Village's program.

How can one confirm who their electric supplier is? View your ComEd bill and observe one-third down the page for the bold header: "Electricity Supply Services." If you are in the Village's aggregation program, your bill will state "FirstEnergy" and a rate of \$4.85 cents per kWh. If not, you are either enrolled with another supplier or you are receiving the ComEd "default" rate that is stated as three separate charges: Electricity Supply Charge, Transmission Services Charge, and Purchased Electricity Adjustment.

The Village selected a 24-month term with FirstEnergy at what was a very opportune time in the electric market. Prices have since climbed. The ComEd supply rate (actually a rate established by the Illinois Power Agency) is expected to rise in June 2014 from the current 6.005 cents per kWh due to known increased capacity charges (which are included in the ComEd supply rate). Meanwhile, the Flossmoor program rate will remain fixed at 4.85 through July 2014. Those increased capacity charges will not be passed through to Flossmoor aggregation program participants. At the end of the two-year term, the Village may again seek competitive rates to renew the program. Residents continue to receive one monthly bill generated by ComEd and continue to receive delivery services from ComEd. Any outages should be reported to ComEd. If residents have any issues with their supply or enrollment, they are encouraged to contact Kimberly Richardson, Assistant to the Village Manager, at 335.5411.



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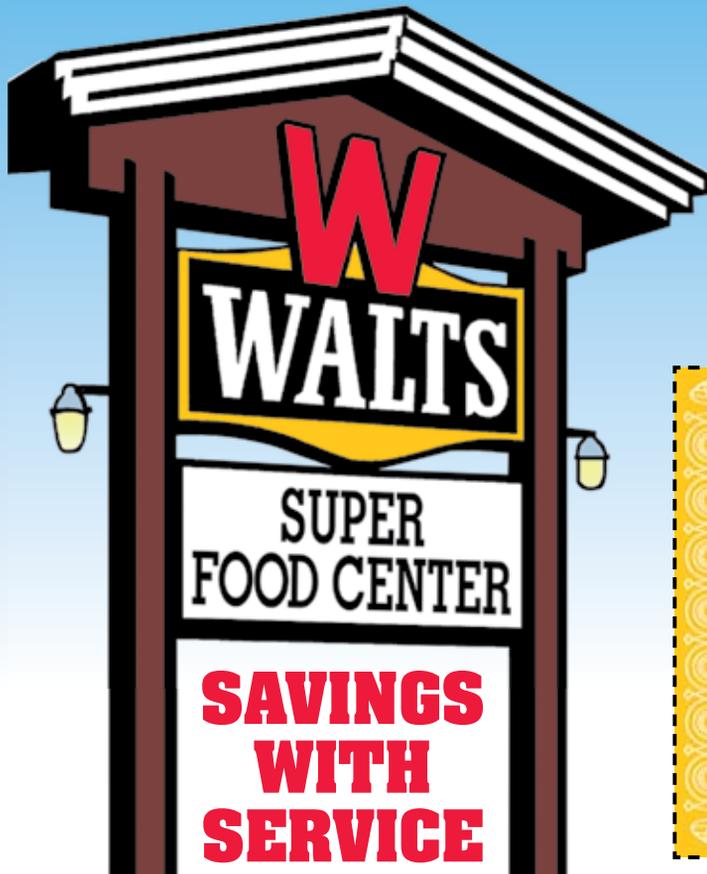
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Answers to Flooding Questions and Flood Zone Information

In the case you need assistance understanding the information presented on the FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) maps, contact the Public Works Department. They are available to explain information presented on the map including:

- Your community, panel and suffix number
- The date of the FIRM
- The FIRM zone and base flood elevation of a particular property
- The elevation datum used on the FIRM
- And any other questions you may have

Also, flood protection libraries have been created and are available for your use at the Flossmoor Public Works and the Flossmoor Public Library. There you will find several publications that are easy to read and are directed at homeowners.

To obtain more information on flood hazard areas, residents can call the Public Works Department. Further, our Assistant Public Works Director, John Brunke, P.E., CFM, is a Certified Floodplain Manager. He can assist with any questions regarding flooding issues and can be reached at 708-957-4100.



World-Class Art to Be Auctioned in Flossmoor on October 11

Flossmoor residents and other art lovers will have a chance to purchase original and limited-edition work by world-class artists at a special art auction on October 11 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Village Hall in support of the Flossmoor Public Art Commission.

The Art Commission, in partnership with ArinRoss Art Auctions, will survey the community this summer to determine what kind of artwork is especially appealing to our community. Hundreds of art pieces will then be selected for this event, where opening bids will be less than half the price typically asked by art galleries.

The event, a festive social gathering that will mark the 15th anniversary of the Flossmoor Art Commission, will support the Commission's effort to promote art in the Flossmoor.

Farmers Market Accepting Vendor Applications

The annual Flossmoor Farmers Market is currently seeking applications from vendors for the upcoming season. The 2014 Farmers Market will be open June 13 - October 17, in the Flossmoor Public Library Parking Lot, offering a variety of fruit and vegetables, baked goods, and other treats from local artisans. Additional information, as well as the applications, can be found at www.flossmoor.org.





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VILLAGE *bulletin*

Next Diversity Dinner is April 24

Celebrate at the 17th Annual Diversity Dinner at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 24. This unique event brings together those who appreciate the area's rich diversity to share in a delicious dinner with stimulating conversation in private homes. Diversity Dinners bring people of different races, religions, ethnicities, lifestyles and age together to share a meal, discuss common goals, understand differences, address misperceptions and offer solutions to strengthen our communities.

The dinners are free for both the dinner hosts and guests. The annual event is funded by contributions from local organizations, businesses and individuals. Although there is no charge for the dinner, each guest and host must register to participate. All guests must be over the age of 14.

To register or get additional information, visit www.diversitydinners.com or contact Evelyn Sterling at 708.283.5621. The deadline for submitting both host and guest registrations is March 26.

Flossmoor Service League Annual Housewalk

The 59th Annual Flossmoor Service League Housewalk will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 from 10 am to 3 pm. Four beautiful Flossmoor community homes will be featured. Housewalk tickets are \$25 each. There will be an optional luncheon at Flossmoor Country Club served from 11 am to 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advanced or \$25 at the door. To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit our website at www.flossmoorserviceleague.org.

Flossmoor Service League is a volunteer organization whose mission is to assist others in need, particularly in helping to provide basic human services through not-for-profit organizations based in the south suburbs of Chicago.

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Nursery Appreciates the Circle of Life

For 28 years, Sunnycrest Nursery owners John and Nancy Slowey have focused on helping their customers beautify their environments. But “going green” is a natural fit for people who own a nursery, and the Sloweys have found numerous ways to help the earth that make great fiscal sense and even engage customers who want to pitch in.

“I try to keep things as simple as possible,” Nancy says. “It works better that way.” As growers, the Sloweys keep the greenhouses full to maximize heating, cooling and watering. To control pests, they use nontoxic chemicals and dabble in biological controls, like mites that eat the bugs of destructive insects but do not harm anything else. Nancy pulls weeds by hand, relying only occasionally on chemicals, and then only those that are safe and non-toxic.

The Sloweys recycle as much as possible, and they invite their customers to recycle their Sunnycrest plastic pots. “We reuse our own containers. If we can reuse the pot until it cracks, it lower costs for customers and helps us maintain our prices,” Nancy said. “Of course, we care about the earth, too.”

When it comes to bags, Sunnycrest welcomes donations of brown paper grocery bags, which they offer to customers instead of large plastic flats that big-box stores use. Sunnycrest also recycles boxes, using them to hold plants stable inside a car to help the customer get them home safely. “Nothing has the Sunnycrest name on it, including bags,” Nancy said.

After nearly three decades on the property at 19725 Governors Highway, the Sloweys have seen plenty of wildlife. Nancy delights in pointing it out to staff and customers. “My job is to teach people how to see the world,” she said. “I’ll point out a sunset, a walking stick (insect), even a possum that’s died. This is the circle of life, and we need to appreciate every moment.”

Edward Jones

Flossmoor Native Helps Community Go Green

Growing up in Flossmoor, Jennifer Molski knew all about getting involved the community. When the daughter of former village president Roger Molski moved back to Flossmoor from Chicago five years ago, she knew she wanted to pitch in. A January drive through Chicago’s Lincoln Park gave her an idea: she was awe-struck at the mounds of Christmas trees Chicago residents piled up in the city in a tree recycling program. “It made you feel good to think people would take the initiative to do this,” she said.

Noticing so many Christmas trees at the curb when she got home, Jennifer saw an opportunity to nudge her neighbors to go green. She also thought it was a good way to make it a community event. “I knew so many businesses and individuals and groups, like the Western Avenue Green Team, and I thought, how can we get all these like-minded people together for a common cause?”

And so the idea for the holiday tree recycling program was born in 2009. Believing that her hometown community—with neighboring Homewood—would embrace the idea, Jennifer looked for a partner and a location. The Homewood-Flossmoor Park District was a natural choice, and officials agreed to support the plan. Looking for a location, Jennifer drove past Irons Oaks one day and noticed it would be a good fit.

The tree recycling program has become a hit, with more trees dropped off each year and nearly 40 local businesses and community groups pitching in. Three years ago, Jennifer expanded the effort to let residents recycle holiday lights as well, another effort that met with success.

Since getting the word out is essential, Jennifer was glad to secure a \$1,000 grant to establish a website for the program (www.hfchristmastreerecycling.com). “Every year, we want to grow the program,” she said. “My favorite part of it is that the program brings together a lot of people. It’s win-win.”



JENNIFER MOLSKI AND HUSBAND, TONY MANOS

Prairie State a Partner in Going Green

When it comes to sustainability issues and events, Prairie State College is a progressive neighbor. From offering electric vehicle charging stations to hosting spring programs to help homeowners go green when it comes to gardening, the community college is a local leader.

New non-credit green courses for spring 2014 include:

- Name That Pest: Weed and Insect Identification (March 19)
- The Chemical-Free Backyard: Protecting Your Family and Pets (April 2 to 16)
- Successful Gardening: From Seedling to Harvest (May 7 to 14)

A community garden, launched successfully last summer, will continue this summer, with plots available to the public.

Prairie State will also be celebrating Earth Week, April 21 -25 with environmental speakers, demonstrations and other exciting events to celebrate our Earth and raise environmental awareness throughout of our community.

Activities include:

- Cereal with Organic Fruit Toppings
- Greening Your Body
- Photo-cycle
- Cooking with Local Foods
- Green Vendor Fair
- Real Talk – Sustainability 101
- Animal Exhibit/Demonstration
- Community Recycling Drive

Find out more about how PSC is a good green partner at <http://prairiestate.edu/sustainability>.



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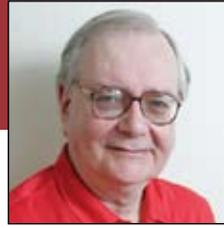
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