

# FLOSSMOOR

VOLUME 22 \ NUMBER 2 \ SUMMER 2012

## news

Stay Informed  
this Summer!



**Residents Approve  
Electric Aggregation  
Program**  
Pg. 4

**Village Launches  
Green Initiative**  
Pg. 10



**Summer Fun!**  
Pg. 11



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DATES TO KNOW .....2  
MAYOR'S MESSAGE .....3

COMMUNITY NEWS.....4, 5, 6, 8  
GREEN NEWS .....10

SUMMER EVENTS NEWS .....11

# 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](http://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  
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# DATES to know

**MAY 15**  
Lawn Sprinkling Ban Begins (effective from 12 -6 p.m.)

**MAY 28**  
Village Hall Closed for Memorial Day

**JUNE 2**  
HF Bike Rodeo at Parker Jr. School Parking Lot

**JUNE 2 & 3**  
Homewood Area Chamber Fine Arts Fair – Downtown Flossmoor

**JUNE 15**  
Farmers Market Begins (Fridays 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

**JUNE 16**  
Drivin' the Dixie

**JULY 4**  
Village Hall Closed for Independence Day

**JULY 4**  
Children's Parade

**JULY 20**  
Movies in Our Parks: The Muppets @ Irwin Park, Homewood (begins at dusk)

**AUGUST 17**  
Movies in Our Parks: Dolphin Tale @ Flossmoor Park (begins at dusk)

**SEPTEMBER 3**  
Village Hall Closed for Labor Day

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
Flossmoor Fest / 5k Run

**SEPTEMBER 15**  
Lawn Sprinkling Ban Ends

**OCTOBER 12**  
Farmers Market Ends

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# MAYOR'S *message*

## Water Main Repair Is an Urgent Need for Flossmoor

I hope that this edition of the Flossmoor News finds you and your family well and enjoying the summer season. On behalf of the Village Board, staff and myself, thank you for approving the electric aggregation referendum this past April by one of the largest margins of any community in the State of Illinois. Eighty-five (85%) percent of Flossmoor residents that participated in the election voted in favor of this program, which we believe will save our residents on the cost of electricity. Communities currently participating in electric aggregation programs are saving up to 20% in supply costs. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this newsletter, we will be under contract at favorable rates to our residents. We extend a special thank you to all of the members of the Flossmoor Residents for Lower Electric Rates Citizens' Committee for the excellent work the Committee did to educate our residents regarding electric aggregation.

I am pleased to let you know that the Village Board has approved next year's budget which will allow the Village to continue all current levels of service and programs without reduction. General fund account balances at this time are stable, although the Village Board and I continue to be vigilant and alert with regard to the State of Illinois' financial crisis situation. Our concern is that the State will continue with efforts to reduce local governments' share of state sales and income taxes as well as other revenues that municipalities rely on for daily operations in an attempt to balance state budgetary issues on the backs of local residents. Please know that the Village Board and I will do everything possible to block and resist this type of action, and we may request your help if necessary as we move forward to protect and prepare for our future.

One area that I want to keep you informed about is the Village's review of necessary infrastructure

improvements to the Village water system. Like any other piece of infrastructure, water mains age and eventually wear out resulting in water main leaks and breaks that waste many tens of thousands of gallons of water each year. Significant portions of the Village water system are over 70 years old, and no major water main improvements have been made since the 1980's. While our water system has been maintained with repairs, historically, the Village has deferred water main replacement as a capital improvement in lieu of other more pressing infrastructure improvements like sanitary and sewer main rehabilitation. However, the deterioration of water pipes has accelerated in the past few years to the point that the Village Water & Sewer Fund is experiencing increasing losses due to the Village purchasing more water than what is being consumed by residents. In addition to repair costs from broken and leaking water mains, the result of this situation is an increased water rate to pay for the purchased, yet unused, water. Currently, almost 1 out of 3 gallons of the water purchased is lost through leaks and breaks, which equates to approximately .35 cent per gallon increase to your water bill. A portion of the deficit in the Water and Sewer Fund is due to system water loss that if not addressed now, will continue to plague us (and our bills) for the foreseeable future.

The Flossmoor Public Works Department has presented the Village Board with a proposed 3 phase water main replacement and system improvement program that will target over the next 8 years, the replacement of some of the worst 50 to 75 year old water mains; provide for system fire flow enhancements; and relocate water mains in residents' backyards to the street for improved system serviceability.

The anticipated cost for necessary water main replacement and system improvements will be in

the \$7,000,000 range. The Water and Sewer Fund has approximately \$1,000,000 in fund balance, and it is not financially feasible for the Village to be able to pay for water system repairs from current fund balances. Therefore, the Village must consider debt in financing this work.

The least expensive way to pay for this work would be through the issuance of a General Obligation Bond, much like what was issued when the new Village Library was built, and, therefore, the Board is giving this financing serious consideration. A General Obligation Bond will have the lowest interest rates for this type of debt and would be repaid by property taxes which are deductible to the majority of our taxpaying residents. This, of course, is subject to our residents' approval by a referendum and will be up to all of us to decide if and how we want to maintain our water system for the future.

Please know that the Village Board and I have also charged staff to seek out grants and any available outside funds, as well as any Illinois Environmental Protection Agency low interest loans that might be available for this type of project. All of our financing options will be further considered in the upcoming months.

The Village Board and staff will continue with the work and financing parameters for this project, and we want to keep you informed now as



**Paul Braun**  
*Mayor of Flossmoor*

we try to decide the best way to move forward. We welcome and request your thoughts and feedback which will be critical to the success of our mission to maintain this vital Village service at the most reasonable cost to all of us.

Thank you so much for your involvement and concern for our community. I look forward to seeing you around town this summer!

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## Stay Informed on Electric Aggregation



On March 20, the voters of Flossmoor approved a referendum to authorize each municipality to engage in electricity aggregation services.

As the Village of Flossmoor proceeds with the implementation of electric aggregation services, it is imperative that residents stay informed. Residents have reported receiving telephone calls from

alternative electric suppliers claiming to be the Village's selected vendor in an effort to switch residents' providers before the Village's program takes effect. Please note that official correspondence from the Village of Flossmoor regarding electric aggregation will be mailed via regular postal service on Village letterhead. The Village anticipates selecting a rate for electricity and mailing official correspondence to all eligible customers in late May or early June with service commencing in July or August of 2012. Residents will not experience any disruption in electrical service during the transition from Commonwealth Edison to the selected vendor.

Residents seeking more information regarding electricity suppliers may contact the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) at [www.citizensutilityboard.org](http://www.citizensutilityboard.org) or (800) 669-5556 and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) at [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org) or (217) 785-7456.

## Music Director Retires After 40 Years



Flossmoor's Dr. Michael Rogers will be retiring this spring from Homewood-Flossmoor High School. His career has spanned more than 40 years, including 24 years at H-F. He has been teaching the joys and challenges of music to young students and is a strong supporter of the arts in education. Dr. Rogers' greatest reward while at Homewood-Flossmoor has been seeing the growth, excellence and recognition awards of the music and visual arts programs in Fine Arts and the development of the dance program in

Physical Education. His retirement plans include traveling over the summer and he looks forward to travel as an ongoing pleasure. In addition, he plans to do some writing, lots of reading and possibly some consulting. Dr. Rodgers will miss the wonderful community - the students, parents, faculty and staff - once he retires.

## Library Launches Free Music Downloads

Flossmoor residents who have library cards will soon be able to download three free songs per week to their mp3 device, courtesy of the Flossmoor Public Library using the Freegal Music Service. These songs can be kept forever, so users can build their music collection through their public library.

Go to the Library's website for details: [www.flossmoorlibrary.org](http://www.flossmoorlibrary.org)

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## How to Check If You Are In a Flood Area

Flooding can be a costly problem that is not always covered by standard homeowner's insurance policies. It can be helpful to determine if your home is in an identified flood hazard area. In order to obtain this information, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided flood maps for the Flossmoor area. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) identifies flood hazard areas and provides additional information, including the flood zone and base flood elevations of particular properties. To obtain more information on flood hazard areas, residents can call Public Works at 708.957.4100.

## Safe Digging Is No Accident

The Fire Department wants to remind all residents to always call 811 a few days before any digging project. Striking a single utility line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call to 811.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the local one-call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both. A utility line is damaged by digging once every three minutes nationwide, and one-third of these incidents are caused by the failure of the professional excavator or homeowner to call 811 before beginning their digging project. You may also request a J.U.L.I.E. online at [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

## New Building Permit Requirements



The Village Board recently adopted building codes that address new technologies and the design and installation of building systems through requirements emphasizing performance. The updated codes were not addressed in 2007 when the Village adopted the 2006 BOCA National Fire Prevention Edition. By updating the 2012 codes, the Fire Department is striving to improve their class

rating with the ISO's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule.

### Some Important Changes to Know:

- Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems in new residential buildings, including one and two family dwellings are required.
- Wireless interconnection of smoke alarms is required.
- Emergency escapes and rescue opening requirements
- Window guards and window fall protection requirements
- Insulation R-value requirements for floors, walls and ceilings/attics
- Exterior deck construction and ledger attachment requirements
- Flashing requirements for windows, doors and veneers
- Specific siding installation requirements
- Window glazing and fenestration requirements to comply with both energy efficiency and safety
- Drip edge requirements for all shingle roofs

The above are a few of the changes, but, as a result, a basic building permit shall be required for such work as window/door replacements and exterior siding installations, as well as insulation installations. These permit requirements are necessary in meeting compliance with not only the Village of Flossmoor, but the State of Illinois' "Energy Efficient Building Act."

## Police Ask Residents to be Alert

The Flossmoor Police Department would like to remind residents of an ongoing problem in the Chicagoland area where subjects use false identities and information to gain access to victims' residences. Even though

no new occurrences have been reported, the Flossmoor Police Department wants to remind residents to be vigilant of this type of crime.

Offenders may distract victims in or outside their home so other offenders can enter the residents unnoticed. Cash and jewelry are common items taken from the home.

The offender may represent themselves as a new neighbor, utility worker, village employee, or a construction worker. They may use stories such as the following to distract potential victims:

- Installing a fence and need you to check the property line
- Checking on your water meter or working on a broken water main
- Cutting trees or performing a service that may affect your property
- Checking on work that was done for you or your neighbor

### What Can You Do

#### As a Resident?

- First, be alert.
- Call "911." The Flossmoor Police Department will come out and verify the identity of anyone in your neighborhood.
- Ask for identification from anyone who comes to your door and wants to enter your home. Ask what company the person works for and call that company to verify. Employees for the Village of Flossmoor will have work identification with them. Utility companies such as ComEd, Nicor and Comcast issue their employees identification.
- Write down any vehicle information such as license plate, make, model and color.

Remember, it pays to be vigilant!



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## 2nd Annual Garden Walk

**Presented by the National Council of Jewish Women of South Cook**

Come and visit seven unique gardens in Flossmoor and Olympia Fields on Sunday, June 24 between 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (rain or shine). Master Gardeners will be available in each garden. Proceeds will benefit Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center and Respond Now. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on that day. Advance tickets may be purchased starting May 1 at Sunnycrest Nursey in Flossmoor. "Day of" tickets will be available at Goldberg Park in Flossmoor. For more information, please contact southlandgardenwalk@gmail.com or call 708.798.4209.

## Property Maintenance Reminder

The time of the year is upon us when residents need to step outside and look at their homes and property. Peeling paint, roofs, fences, and dead vegetation that has accumulated on property are all issues that need to be addressed.

Also, the following are reminders of ordinances that are strictly enforced:

- Garbage containers, when not out for pickup, must be stored where they are not in view of the public. Containers can be seen twenty-four hours prior to pickup and must be removed within twenty-four hours after pickup.

- Inoperable motor vehicles are a violation of Flossmoor ordinance. A vehicle parked on property or on the street with a flat tire is considered inoperable.

- Vegetation cannot hang over any sidewalk; there must be a 10 foot high clearance for any vegetation along sidewalks.

- Weeds are prohibited and grass exceeding 5 inches in height is a violation.

Ordinance Officers have been compiling a list of all properties in the Village that require maintenance. Step outside and start making your list of issues that you need to address. Do not hesitate to contact the Ordinance Officer with any questions or concerns you may have. A list of all ordinances can be found at the Flossmoor Public Library. They can be found in the Flossmoor Municipal Code, and the majority of the property maintenance regulations listed above can be found in Chapter 12, Sections 207 and 208. The Village of Flossmoor takes great pride in the appearance of our community. Let's all contribute!



## 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.

This donation is tax deductible as provided by law.

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# COMMUNITY news

## Block Parties Bring Neighbors Together



Spring is here in full force (even though Winter fooled us), but summer is just around the corner. Before you know it, the kids will be out of school and the fun of summer and the flurry of outdoor activities will begin.

Block parties are a timeless tradition. What better way to enjoy the weather and get to know your neighbors than a neighborhood get together?

Knowing your neighbors is about more than having someone to borrow eggs from when you run out. It also increases your safety and the safety of your neighborhood when neighbors know and look out for each other. There is no better way to foster these relationships than through a neighborhood block party.

The Flossmoor Community Relations Commission encourages block parties as a way of uniting and celebrating our neighborhoods. The number one key to a successful block party is remembering to have fun! A block party should not be a source of stress for anyone involved, but should be a time to relax, enjoy the weather and spend time building relationships with neighbors.

**Look to the back of this issue for a block party application or go to [www.flossmoor.org/blockparties](http://www.flossmoor.org/blockparties) to download an application and find useful tips for a great block party.**

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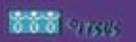
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## GREEN *corner*

### Green Committee Starts Campaign to Turn Off Your Engines

Making a difference is as easy as turning a key. The Flossmoor Green Committee wants residents to know that you'll breathe easier, save money and prolong the life of your vehicle if you turn off your engine. More than anything, your vehicle will not be unnecessarily polluting the air. It's good for you, it's good for your neighbor, and it's good for the environment.



This Spring, the Green Committee partnered with Clean Air Counts (a regional private-public initiative of the Metropolitan Mayor Caucus) to reduce toxic air pollution

emissions that affect our children and neighbors by engaging the residents in the "Idling Gets You Nowhere" campaign.

The "Idling Gets You Nowhere" campaign encourages drivers to turn off their engines when their vehicles are not moving. Drivers in school parking lots, parks and commuter train stations inadvertently release thousands of pounds of pollution into the air every year.

The average person breathes 3,400 gallons of air a day and children breathe 50% more air per pound than adults. A single vehicle dropping off and picking up kids at one school put three pounds of pollution into the air per month. Children's asthma symptoms increase as a result of car exhaust. Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences. Asthma is the 3rd leading cause of hospitalization among children under 15 years.

To find out more about the "Idling Gets You Nowhere" campaign and learn interesting facts about idling and the impact it has on the environment, visit [www.flossmoor.org/flossmoorcares](http://www.flossmoor.org/flossmoorcares).

### HF Park District Wants You to Go Green

The HF Park District want to reward you for shopping local and green. Join their "Go Green" Program to earn prizes as you support local businesses and community events that are eco-friendly.

#### Program Overview

- Community members can receive a "Go Green" punch card from the HF Park District.
- Participating businesses and events will have designated "Go Green" approved purchases or activities. For example, shopping at the local farmers market or attending a rain barrel workshop can earn you a punch.
- A completed punch card can be turned in to the Park District to win raffle prizes.

#### What Can You Do To Participate?

- Pick up your "Go Green" punch card from the HF Park District.
- Start shopping and earning punches on your "Go Green" card. A list of participating vendors and events can be found at [hfparks.com](http://hfparks.com).
- Turn in your completed card to the Goldberg or Irwin Centers for your chance to win a monthly raffle prize.



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# SUMMER EVENTS *news*



## 2012 Fine Arts Fair

June 2 and 3 | 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Downtown Flossmoor will be the host location for the 31st Annual Homewood Area Chamber Fine Arts Fair, June 2 – 3. The event will feature more than 30 juried fine art and craft artists. Visit [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org) for a list of art vendors.

## Movies In Our Parks

This year's will be held on Friday, July 20 and Friday, August 17. Movies begin at Dusk.

**Friday, July 20 – Irwin Park in Homewood**

*The Muppets*

**Friday, August 17 – Flossmoor Park in Flossmoor**

*Dolphin Tale*

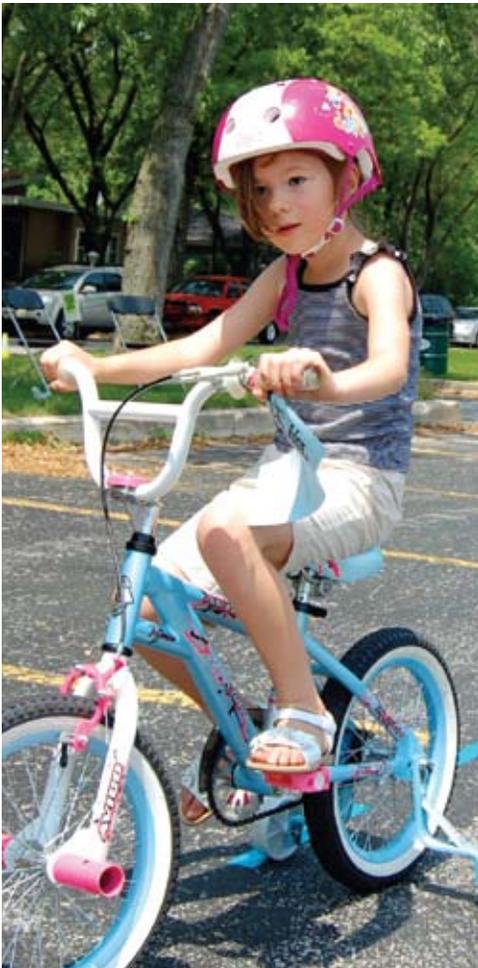
## HF Bike Rodeo

Saturday, June 2 at the Parker Jr. High School Parking Lot

It's time to ride! Visit the bicycle safety-check and then participate in these skills and drills:

- Snail Race
- Crazy Crossroads
- Rock Dodge
- Demon Driveway
- Cone Weave
- Quick Stop
- Quick Turn
- Scanning

Skills are judged by your local bicycle police officers. Complete the entire circuit to enter into a raffle! Enjoy food vendors and a Dino Jump. Walk-up registration available. Bicycles and helmets will be available to rent for 50 cents. Age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Onsite bike and vehicle parking available.



## 4th of July Parade

Flossmoor Fire Department will host the annual Independence Day Children's Parade. The parade is for children of all ages and everything from strollers to two-wheelers are allowed. Children decorate their bikes, trikes or wagons and parade down Flossmoor Road to downtown Flossmoor. The parade lineup starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Parker Jr. High School parking lot. For additional information, visit [www.flossmoor.org](http://www.flossmoor.org).



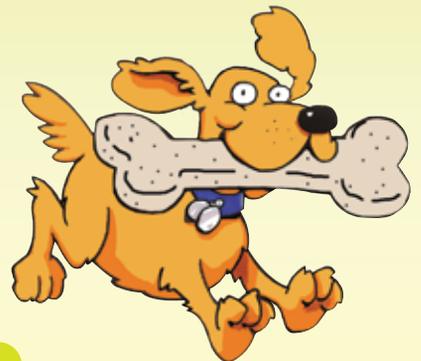
## Farmers Market Opens in June

The Flossmoor Farmers Market will open on Friday, June 15 and will continue every Friday through October 12 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. It is held in the Flossmoor Public Library parking lot (located at 1000 Sterling Avenue).

## GREAT GIFT IDEA FOR ANY PET LOVER -

**INCLUDING YOURSELF!**

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- DAILY DOG WALKING
- PET WASTE REMOVAL
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