

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Summer 2016
Volume 26 / Number 2



COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM CREATIVE KIDS

Cover Story page 3. Back row left to right: Mr. Greg Petecki, Shaniya Wiley, Danielle Jordan, Alex Briggins, Caitlin Lamb, Noah Colon

Front row left to right: Kayla Trojani-Wendt, Johnna Mitchell, Kylie Andersen, Pershia Mohseni, Jaida Jordan, Stephen Manning

With Open Arms
Flossmoor gives a warm welcomes to new businesses. Page 7.

Sold!
Plan to shop at the community-wide garage sale on June 11. Page 8.

village officials

Paul Braun, *Mayor* James Mitros, *Trustee*
James Crum, *Trustee* James Wilder, *Trustee*
Perry Hoag, *Trustee* Diane Williams, *Trustee*
Philip Minga, *Trustee* Pamela Nixon, *Clerk*
Bridget Wachtel, *Village Manager*

village numbers

Village Hall: 798-2300
Fire: 798-3885
Non-Emergency Police: 957-4500
Non-Emergency TDD: 647-0179
Public Works: 957-4100
Building Department: 957-4101
Emergency Only: 911

village meetings

Village Board Meeting
1st & 3rd Mondays of the Month at 7:30 pm

Plan Commission Meeting
3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals
4th Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 pm

Public Art Commission Meeting
2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm

Community Relations Commission Meeting
4th Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 pm

Green Committee Meeting
3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 pm

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:
Judy Hrechko
The Times Media Company
(708) 891-0744
Judy.Hrechko@nwi.com

calendar

flossmoor.org

Sunday, May 15 to Thursday, September 15

Lawn Sprinkling Ban in Effect

The use of sprinklers for watering lawns or turf areas is prohibited between 12–5 p.m. from May 15 to September 15.

Saturday, June 18

Drivin' the Dixie from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, go to www.drivingthedixie.com

Sunday, June 26

Southland Community Garden Walk from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 4

4th of July Children's Parade!

Lineup is at 9:30 a.m. at Parker Jr. High. Parade starts at 10 a.m.

Friday, July 15

Movie in Our Parks — Star Wars: The Force Awakens will play at Irwin Park in Homewood. Movie begins at dusk and is free.

Saturday, July 24

H-F Family Night at Sox Park. Start time is 1:10 p.m. See page 10.

Friday, August 19

Movie in Our Parks — Inside Out will be playing at Flossmoor Park in Flossmoor. Movie begins at dusk and is free to the public.

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WELCOME KINETIC VISION!

Noah Colon, Stephen Manning,
Mr. Greg Petecki and Alex Briggins.

Village Art Program Partnership with H-F High School Grows Stronger

In May, the Village welcomed its second commissioned sculpture from the Homewood-Flossmoor High School 3D Art program, Kinetic Vision, to its Rotational Sculpture Program. The piece will replace Bell Tower which had been installed on the south lawn of the Flossmoor Library for the last three years.

Public Art Commission Chair Richard Bumstead stated, "This is a great partnership that allows us to foster creativity and sculpture from within our own community and teaches the students practical lessons on the process required to receive approval to design, create and place sculpture. The real life education is invaluable to the students, and the community benefits from the creativity."

The inspiration for this year's student sculpture developed from an in class conversation about community where change and growth are constantly occurring and embraced. "The HF community, as we all know, is an amazing community that consists of history and tradition. However, change is constantly occurring around us with new technology, the addition of new members and

the constant plans of improvement. It was pointed out that the idea of community is simplistic and natural, but it also can be complex, with constantly moving and changing parts. This naturally led us to the exploration of kinetic sculpture as a focus for this year's project," commented Greg Petecki, sculpture teacher at Homewood Flossmoor High School.

Kinetic sculptures are figures that physically move. The aim of most kinetic sculpture is to make movement itself an integral part of the design, verses a static object. Constantly changing patterns become a relationship taking place through space and time, which create an ever changing dialogue between the viewer and the space.

The High School has agreed to loan the sculpture to the Village for 3 years, after which the High School will take possession of it and move it to their sculpture park on the high school property where it will join Bell Tower and other works. "We will also miss the beautiful Bell Tower and have very much enjoyed having it on the grounds of the Flossmoor Library," commented Megan Millan, Administrative Librarian.



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| <i>Olive oil</i> | <i>Coffee/Tea</i> |
| <i>Salsa</i> | <i>Eggs</i> |
| <i>Sauces</i> | <i>Vegetables</i> |
| <i>Flowers</i> | <i>Kettle corn</i> |

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PLAYER'S BASEBALL CAMP A BIG HIT!

Local kids work to build skills by keeping things fun first

*"(Flossmoor baseball) was truly a kids getaway...
a magical place for a kid in the summer." — Issac Cutrara*

Player's Baseball Camp is designed for youth baseball players looking to refine skills, hang out with friends, and get a taste of what high school instruction and drills are like. All skills levels are encouraged to attend, and every player will get an equal opportunity to improve.

The camp's co-founders, Isaac Cutrara and Patrick Sheehan, have fond memories of spending countless hours at the Flossmoor baseball fields. Both played baseball all four years at H-F and began to miss the game once they started college.

"We've always been in the community and love baseball, so instead of umpiring as we had been doing, we decided to start a baseball camp," Isaac said.

Patrick currently plays football for the University of Wisconsin in Plattville and is the high school junior varsity baseball coach at a nearby school. Isaac plays football for

the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. Isaac's brother, Sam, a senior on H-F's baseball team, is the camp's hitting instructor.

Now in its third year, the Player's Baseball Camp had more than doubled in size over its first two summers. The camp works with age groups 8 to 10 and 11 to 13. Hour and a half sessions are held four days a week for three weeks at the Flossmoor ballparks and the H-F Varsity baseball field. Cost is \$175 for the 12 days, or \$15 for one day.

Camps begin on July 6, and participants may attend all 12 days or pay per day. There is no cutoff for sign-up. "We try to make it as easy as possible to participate because we know people have travel plans in the summer," Isaac said.

For more information, visit the camp's website at: www.facebook.com/Plyrs2k16, email Issac at isaac5896@yahoo.com, or call 708-382-0996.

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Use Your Sun Sense

You can enjoy the sun and still protect your eyes from damage if you take a few basic precautions:

- If at all possible, limit your time in the sun
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat
- Wear sunglasses that filter 99% of UV rays

Protect Your Children, Too!

Studies show that children receive up to 80% of their exposure to damaging UV rays by age 18. To keep them safe, follow the same precautions as you would for an adult, but be sure to choose sunglasses that fit their smaller faces, have impact-resistant lenses with quality frames, and have lenses large enough to shield the entire eye.

Stop In Before You Head Out

Our office can help you have your day in the sun and do it safely. We offer quality sunglasses - both prescription and non-prescription - that meet the highest standards for sun protection. And we offer them in styles to suit everyone, from infants through adults. Call us for an appointment today.

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business spotlight



Flossmoor Welcomes Bakewell Bakery

Bakewell Bakery co-owner, Pat Ledsham, is a familiar face to many. You may have tasted her mouthwatering treats at the Homewood Farmer's Market or even the original Sweet Annie's. Now, Pat and her husband Alan have found a permanent home for their wares in the former Sweet Annie's location in uptown Flossmoor.

Bakewell Bakery, Inc. opened in April, serving British and European sweets and savories, plus a select assortment of British grocery items. According to Pat, 99.9 percent of their wares are baked by hand in the shop, including fresh bread and brioche buns.

The store's chefs are classically trained in British and French cuisines and the store uses many family recipes. Bakewell sources locally as much as possible and partners with downstate farms for their eggs, proprietary sausage blend ingredients and more. Their coffee comes from Bowtruss, a small coffee roaster located in Chicago.

The inspiration for opening the store was twofold: First, Alan, formerly of Cheshire, England, was homesick for his favorite British foods. Second, the Ledshams wanted to give their daughter, Zoë, an opportunity to work. Zoë is a special needs student at H-F and loves to bake. Pat and Alan have partnered with H-F to provide some part-time opportunities to students with disabilities.

Visit Bakewell from 6:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, or come for high tea on Sunday, served from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (reservations are recommended). Keep Bakewell Bakery in mind for party trays featuring desserts and/or savory items. Check out their website: www.bakewellbakeryinc.com.

Pat said, "We want people to know that we'd like our location to be a place where people come, meet neighbors, enjoy themselves, feel comfortable and experience different types of food. That's our goal."



Meijer to Open in June

The long-awaited Meijer store opening will take place June 21st. The accompanying gas station opened May 26th. After eagerly watching the various phases of construction at its site on the north side of Vollmer Road, just east of Crawford, area residents will soon be able to take advantage of the store's many offerings.

"Flossmoor is a community full of families looking for an option that is not only within reasonable driving distance, but also provides a combination of low prices and a wide selection of general merchandise and fresh grocery options," said Store Director Becky Beketic. "Our team is working very hard to get our supercenter ready, so we're excited to bring the Meijer difference to our new neighbors later this month."

As a pioneer of the "one-stop-shopping" concept, Meijer provides residents the convenience of finding groceries, general merchandise, a pharmacy, a garden center and more, all available under one roof, 24 hours a day.

The vast array of items available at Meijer is just the beginning of the store's contribution to the community. Meijer strongly believes in supporting the communities they serve, with initiatives that include:

- locally sourcing produce wherever possible
- educational programs
- support for local sports teams
- assisting local food banks and pantries
- community rewards programs
- ...and much more!

As a "green" neighbor, Meijer's business plan incorporates eco-friendly initiatives, from energy efficient, environmentally friendly stores, offices, and distribution centers to ensuring they select seafood in accordance with responsible practices and principles of sustainability.

Meijer is a Grand Rapids, Michigan-based retailer that operates 223 supercenters and grocery stores throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

We welcome Meijer to Flossmoor and wish you all happy shopping!

RECYCLE PLASTICS RIGHT!



Where do YOUR dry cleaning, bread and produce bags, newspaper wraps and case wrappers end up? Set up a collection box in an area inside a kitchen pantry, hall closet or under a sink and start gathering these “possible pollutants” instead of throwing them away. Besides keeping these types of plastics away from landfills, they are also NOT ACCEPTED in curbside recycling. It is easy to gather clean and dry plastics for months and then drop them off at a local “green” store. Walt’s, Kohl’s, Target or Walmart all collect plastic bags, wrap and film.

Did you know?...Companies such as TREX take these recycled plastic materials and turn them into planters, furniture, pergolas, storage and decking. The average 500-square foot composite deck contains 140,000 recycled plastic bags!

Thank You Homewood Disposal

The Flossmoor Green Committee would like to thank Homewood Disposal for serving as one of the sponsors of Recyclepalooza, which was held on May 14th at Parker Junior High. After 60 years in business, this family owned company continues to help our community REDUCE the amount of garbage that ends up in landfills. To find more RECYCLING TIPS and other questions go to mydisposal.com.

Looking for Garden Space?

Need a space to garden this year but live in a condo, apartment or don't have the right conditions to grow the garden of your dreams? Check out the HF Park District Summer CHOICES booklet or call 481-7313 for more information. Irons Oaks is partnering with Olympia Fields Park District and offering garden plots for \$25 plus a \$20 refundable deposit.

GIANT GARAGE SALE

Shop Till You Drop...Reusing at its Best!

What happens when people get together year after year for a neighborhood garage sale? A community-wide garage sale is born!

Mary Steinmetz has been the driving force behind the annual neighborhood garage sale in Flossmoor Park since 1992. The tradition had been started by a neighbor who asked Mary to take it over when she and her husband Jerry moved to town.

Over the years, more and more people began to ask Mary if the sale could be expanded to include their streets. She decided to take it one step further, expanding it to include the entire community! This year, two dates were set for the sale to allow more opportunity to participate. The first was held May 7th and second will be June 11th.

The ultimate in reuse, the Community Garage Sale is a fun way for neighbors to get to know each other, declutter and find great bargains. “A lot of people in the neighborhood look forward to it as a way to recycle their stuff rather than having it end up in landfills,” Mary said.

You can read about the Community Garage Sale on Flossmoor's Nextdoor neighborhood website. Better yet, come join the fun on June 11th. One's trash is another's treasure!



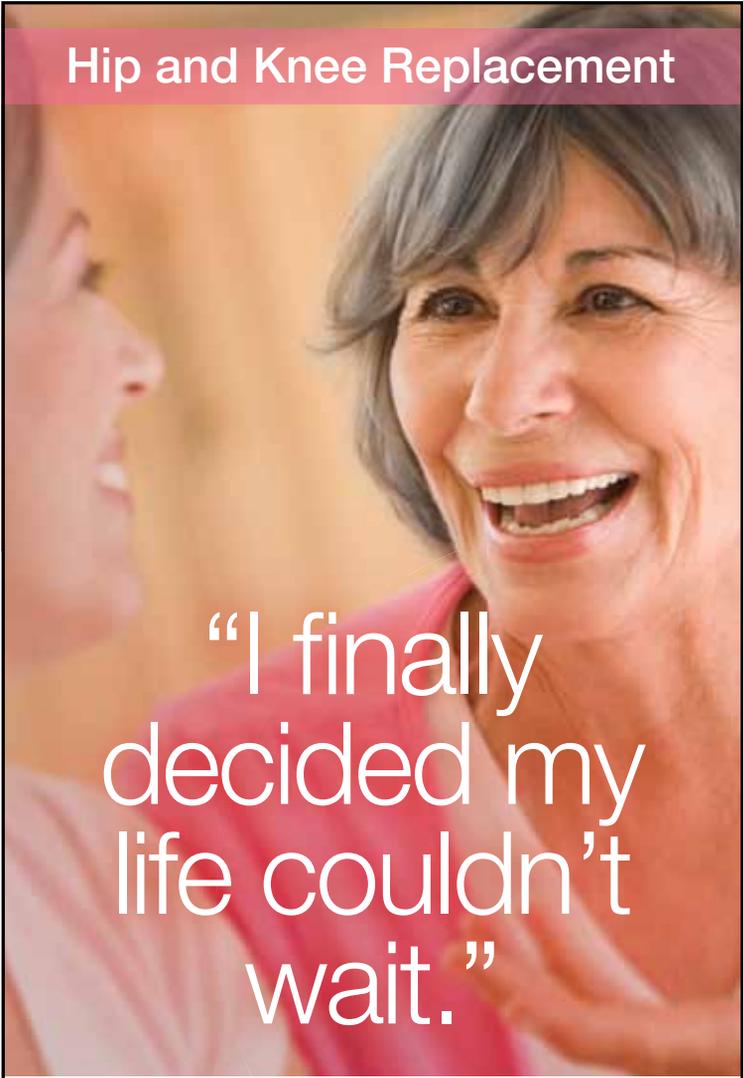
DID YOU PALOOZA?



Recyclepalooza Recap

Thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of the people in our area, we reduced our community's contribution to local landfills. The earth is a bit greener due to this successful first time event! Here are some of the stats: 50+ volunteers from the HF Green Team, HF High School, Parker Junior High, James Hart and IJP; 300+ residents passed through the event to recycle; 3 truckloads of electronics including TV's, computers and other small devices; 50+ bikes donated to Working Bikes Chicago which will refurbish and give away to low-income or homeless individuals who need bikes for transportation; 1 full truckload of goods and clothing donated to the South Suburban Humane Society Resale Shop; 2 full truckloads of paper recycled properly; 75 trees given away as part of the Restore the Canopy, Plant a Tree Campaign; 3 SUV's jammed packed with plastic bags, wrap and film recycled locally at Kohl's in Homewood; 10 American flags given to the VFW for proper retirement; 100+ pairs of glasses given to Lions Club to refurbish and donate to help prevent blindness and restore eyesight; 3 bags of pop tabs donated to the Ronald McDonald Foundation; 5 boxes of hotel shampoo and soaps donated to Respond Now. Amazing! These are simple acts of caring for the earth, that in turn help others.

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NEWS TO USE!

Three Cheers for the Red, White & Blue!

Come on out and be part of this festive Flossmoor tradition. Our annual Fourth of July Children's Bike Parade starts at 10 a.m. (Lineup is at Parker Junior High School parking lot at 9:30.) Children of all ages are welcome to participate and everything from strollers and wagons to bikes and scooters is allowed. Get creative! Decorate your ride and win a prize. Hosted by the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Corporation.



Village Receives Recognition for Financial Reporting

State law requires the Village to prepare a set of audited financial statements following the close of each fiscal year. The Village prepares its annual financial report in the form of a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). For the past 38 years, the Village has received recognition for its CAFR in the form of a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association. The 2015 CAFR is located on the Village website under Budget and CAFR. This award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Flossmoor is one of only 1.00% of municipalities in the United States with a population of less than 10,000 that receive the award.

What does this mean to the taxpayer? The Village's finances, including the presentation of the audited financial statements, impact the Village's bond rating. A better bond rating can mean more attractive interest rates. Savings on debt service has a direct impact to the taxpayer since the debt is a separate item on your tax bill. To that point, the Village's bond rating upgrade itself accounted for nearly \$80,000 of the \$265,000 savings associated with the 2009 Advance G.O. Refunding Bond Issue. These savings did not impact the Village budget, but rather, positively impacted property tax payers and were reflected in tax bills. Since the downturn of the economy, the Village has not only improved its bond rating to AA+ but has maintained it.

Southland Community Garden Walk

On June 26, stroll through seven outstanding gardens during the Southland Community Garden Walk. Master gardeners will be on hand to help you enjoy the diverse horticultural artistry showcased in these awe-inspiring grounds located in Flossmoor, Homewood and Olympia Fields. Rain or shine from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20. Sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women South Cook. Visit www.ncjwsouthcook.org for more information.

H-F Family Night with the White Sox!

The HF Summer Choir will perform the National Anthem prior to the first pitch of Saturday, July 24. The Chicago White Sox would like to invite all fans residing in Homewood and Flossmoor to come out to game! Start time at 1:10 p.m. For special ticket information go to www.whitesox.com/hf.

Electric Aggregation Program

Starting in July, the Village's electrical supplier for the electric aggregation program will change to Dynegy Energy. The new Flossmoor rate will be 6.531¢/kwh, which will be fixed through August 2018. If you are not already in the program and would like to join, contact Dynegy Energy at 1.844.351.7691. ComEd does not offer a fixed rate for residents. Instead, their rate through June of 2017 will fluctuate between 5.690¢ and 6.808¢. The ComEd rate is expected to increase when it is next reset in June of 2017.

For more information on the ComEd rate as well as rates from competing suppliers, visit plugillinois.org. The Village strongly urges any resident who intends to cancel an existing supply contract in order to join the aggregation contract to

carefully review their current contract to ensure that cancellations will not impose termination fees.

Residents with questions are encouraged to contact the Villages' consultant, NIMEC, at 1.800.727.3820.



Pull Up A Chair

Join friends, neighbors and family in an evening celebrating community and supporting art. One of the most beloved pieces in the Village's sculpture program is "Minions" by Scott McMillin. This sculpture depicts a group coming together to create something greater than the individual parts and is seen as a symbol of community. Because of these qualities, "Minions" inspired the theme of this fundraising event.

On Saturday, October 8, join the Flossmoor community at Wiley's Grill for a fun-filled event to support the public art program. The event is designed around an open call to artists, civic groups, and youth to donate their talent to create a PULL UP A CHAIR artwork. The "altered chairs" entries will be on display for a silent auction along with additional items, and ArtForum (the Governors State University Student Art Organization) will conduct a sale of their artwork. Attendees will enjoy an evening of food, refreshments and fun. Funds raised will go towards bringing more high quality public art into our rotational program.

For entry guidelines and ticket information, visit Flossmoor.org and search Public Art. We've saved you a chair!



Property Maintenance Reminder

The time of the year is upon us when all residents need to step outside and look at their homes for property maintenance issues like peeling paint; siding, roofs and window in disrepair; and overgrown/weedy landscaping. The value of our community is in our housing stock and to maintain that value, we all need to do our part to keep our homes in tip-top shape. The following are reminders of ordinances that are strictly enforced.

- Garbage containers must be stored in a manner that is reasonably concealed from the view from the street. Containers must be removed from the parkway within 24 hours after garbage pickup.
 - Inoperable motor vehicles cannot be parked on property or on the street. For example a vehicle with a flat tire is considered inoperable.
 - Vegetation cannot hang over the any sidewalk.
 - Weeds are prohibited and grass height cannot exceed 5 inches.
- The Village takes great pride in the appearance of our community. Let's work together to keep Flossmoor beautiful.

Planning a Summer Vacation?

The Flossmoor House Watch Program allows residents to notify the Police Department and request additional patrols while you are away. You can complete an application by going to the Flossmoor Police Station or visit flossmoor.org to get the House Watch form.

Did You Get Your Permit?

Permits may seem like a bother, but they should provide you some assurance that your project is being completed to code. With a permit, you are provided an inspection and a review of the work to make sure it is safe and meets our current adopted codes; the risk of not obtaining a permit could be greater than the cost of a ticket with short-cuts and less than standard work.

Building permits are required for many home improvement projects, to both the interior and exterior of the home as well as for certain accessory uses and structures. Administrative permits are also required for dumpsters and portable storage containers at no cost to residents.

Applications are available at flossmoor.org. The website also provides fact sheets detailing what work requires a permit and submittal requirements. In addition, the Village strongly recommends that homeowners obtain multiple bid proposals from reputable contractors that are able to offer references of previous work completed. Please contact the Department of Inspectional Services with any questions at 708.957.4101.



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flossmoor faces & places

Teen Violinist Scores Talent Contest W!

Thirteen-year-old Kate Nelson is accustomed to playing her violin in front of audiences, but none have been so large as the thousands of Chicago Bulls fans she wowed at the United Center to win the Jewel-Osco Chicago Bulls Youth Talent Search on April 2.

Kate initially won a monthly competition in March leading up to the final contest. Talent Search participants play their instruments during halftime, and winners are determined by fan applause.

A seventh-grader at Parker Junior High School, Kate has been playing the violin since she was in the first grade. She discovered the instrument watching a performance of young players at the Flossmoor Library. “The library is a wonderfully diverse place to take children to experience new things,” said Kate’s mother, Michelle Nelson.



Kate Nelson

Kate studies violin in the Homewood-Flossmoor Suzuki Strings Program, where the instructor makes sure students have the opportunity to perform in front of audiences several times a year. Michelle explained the community has been very supportive of Kate which helps to build her confidence and grow musically. Friends and neighbors have invited Kate to play for events and parties. She has played at Infant Jesus of Prague Church, Marion Catholic High School, in a chamber group at Flossmoor Country Club, and at venues in Chicago.

For the competition, Kate performed a mashup of two traditional Irish tunes, “Irish Washerwoman” and “Drowsy Maggie.” H-F High School teacher, Jon Elfner, helped her prepare to play in such a large venue.

“Kate’s success hasn’t happened in a vacuum; it truly takes a village of people looking out for one another, and I think we live in a great village,” Michelle said.

Flossmoor Firefighters Receive Prestigious Award

On April 26, Captain Matthew Berk and Firefighter/Paramedic Zac Jebens received the 2016 Valor Award from the 100 Club of Chicago for their efforts in rescuing a woman from a structure fire on November 7, 2015. Assistant Fire Chief Keith Damm narrated the presentation, and Captain Berk’s father (retired Flossmoor Fire Chief Greg Berk) presented the award.



Matthew Berk and Zac Jebens

In 1980, the Board of Directors of the 100 Club of Chicago established the Valor Award to be presented annually to those police officers, firefighters and paramedics who, by their actions, performed above and beyond the call of duty and in the highest tradition of their respective departments. Recipients are chosen by the awards committees of the Chicago Police and Fire Departments, the Illinois Police Association and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, not by the staff of the 100 Club of Chicago. Because of the stringent standards imposed by those peers, there might be times when the Valor Award will not be given. The Valor Award is the only civilian award that is permitted to be worn on the awardee’s uniform in every municipality within Cook County.

The 100 Club of Chicago provides for the families of first responders who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This membership based organization offers several forms of financial assistance, access to resources and moral support. All sworn federal, state, county and local first responders stationed in Cook and Lake Counties are included.

Calling All Business Owners

The **Flossmoor News** is direct mailed to all residents, businesses and PO Boxes in the Village of Flossmoor, distribution approximately 4,000.



To showcase your business in the next newsletter, call:

Judy Hrechko
(708) 891-0744



FLOSSMOOR FEST

The tradition continues September 10

Plans are well underway for Flossmoor Fest and again this year, we will be offering sponsorship to our residents, local businesses and organizations. While the Village underwrites most of the costs of the event, your donations offsets cost to keep our celebration as a free family friendly, memorable and fun event as it has been in previous years.

If you haven't been a sponsor of the Festival in the past, perhaps you will consider doing so this year. Our sponsors can choose from five levels of sponsorship. "Master of Ceremonies" sponsors will have a booth in the downtown area or booth in Flossmoor Park, their business logo on the stage banner and on printed materials along with two free Fest t-shirts. "Main Stage" sponsors will have their business logo on the banner and on printed material along with two complimentary t-shirts. "Entertainment" sponsors will have their name printed on t-shirts, printed materials and displayed at community tents as well as acknowledgement from the Main Stage and two t-shirts. "Family Fun" sponsors will receive two complimentary t-shirts along with their name listed on printed materials and acknowledgement from the Main Stage. "Friends of the Fest" sponsors will receive two complimentary t-shirts with their name listed on the Fest program.

The Village also accepting booth registrations for Flossmoor based businesses and organizations. Please note that there are several requirements that must be met in order to apply for a booth. Booth registration deadline is Friday, July 22 and applications will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Dawn Lencioni at dlencioni@flossmoor.org or by phone at 957.4100 for more information.

Thank you to all our sponsors! Without them, the Fest would not be possible.

Sponsorship Form

YES! I / We would like to be a 2016 Fest Sponsor.

Sponsorship Levels

- Master of Ceremonies (\$2,500 +)
- Main Stage (\$1,000 - 2,499)
- Entertainment (\$500 - 999)
- Family Fun (\$100 - 499)
- Friends of the Festl (\$25 - 99)

Donation Amount: \$ _____

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Last Name: _____

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City: _____

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an ounce of prevention...

How to Flood Proof Your Home

Stormwater flooding in Flossmoor is generally caused by three sources: Butterfield Creek and its tributaries, Cherry Creek and its tributaries, and localized street and drainage ditch flooding and over banking. In some areas, overbanking can cover streets and yards, with potential to flood cars, garages, basements and lower floors. Here are few suggestions on how to protect your property and belongings from flooding:

- Electrical boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and washers/dryers should be elevated or relocated to a location less likely to be flooded.
- Basement floor drains and interior and exterior backwater valves can be installed, and interior flood walls can be placed around utilities.
- You may wish to speak with an expert about re-grading your lot or building a small floodwall or earthen berm. These methods work if your lot is large enough, if flooding is not too deep, and if your property is not in the floodway. The cost of material for an average size berm can vary. A permit is required for all re-grading projects.
- Many houses, even those not in the flood hazard area, have sewers that back up into the basement during heavy storms. A plug or a standpipe may stop this if the water does not get more than two feet deep. For deeper sewer backup flooding, talk to a plumber about overhead sewers or a backup valve.
- If flooding is likely, and time permits, move essential items and furniture to upper floors of your home. Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheets, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing. This action will help minimize the amount of damage caused by floodwaters.

Your property may be high enough that it has not flooded recently. However, it can still be flooded in the future because the next flood could be worse. To obtain more information on flood hazard areas, residents can call the Public Works Department at 708.957.4100.

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

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 at 708.957.4100.

Disaster Planning & Preparation

As we've all witnessed in recent months, bad weather is not just a "spring thing." We have to be prepared for severe weather at any time. Experts study weather historical patterns, and while the Chicago area has been fairly fortunate in recent years, Mother Nature will surely come around.

Tornado "season" can extend into the summer and fall. Here are a few tips to be prepared. First and foremost, don't ignore the warnings! Studies show that people will ignore warnings unless they believe that they themselves are directly threatened. This mindset leads to people going to their windows or stepping outside to see why tornado sirens are going off. When tornado sirens and radio or television warnings occur, it is because a professional weather spotter has seen something imminently threatening. This is the time to take immediate action to protect yourself and your family, not to see what's going on outside.

If you have a basement, go there. Avoid windows, and know where the heavy items are overhead. If you know you have a piano in your living room, don't take shelter in that part of the basement. In the event of a tornado, your house may become structurally unstable and having a piano, refrigerator, stove, etc. over your head could be bad.

If you don't have a basement, go to the lowest floor. Get in the smallest interior room or closet, or even the hallway — just avoid windows. If you're outside, get in the lowest area possible and lie face down, protecting your head with your hands. If you're in your vehicle, the highway overpass is an urban myth- don't go there! Buckle up, get low beneath the car windows and protect your head. If you can safely get lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that low area.

Take a few moments and prepare. Talk to your family, make a plan, and even tuck a few things away in a survival kit. In reality, in the aftermath of a tornado, it may take hours, and potentially days for rescuers to get to you. Experts say to be self-sustainable for 72 hours with water, medication, food, clothes, and so on. For more information on how to prepare visit ready.gov.

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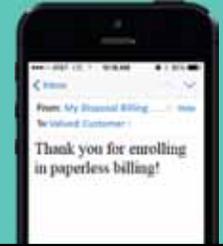
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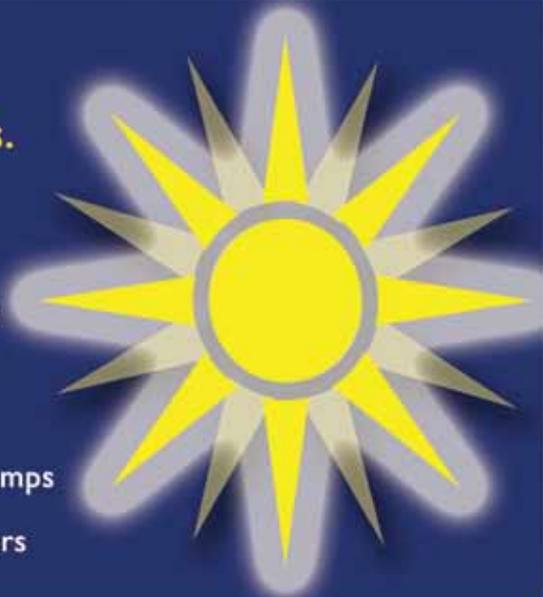
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