

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Winter 2016
Volume 26 / Number 4



VISIT A WINTER CANDYLAND!

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bigger goals
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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:
Wendy Barmore
The Times Media Company
(708) 891-0744
Wendy.Barmore@nwi.com

calendar

flossmoor.org

November 24 & 25

Village Hall closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

November 26

Shop Local! Small Business Saturday

December 3

Winterfest — Village Festivities begin at 2 pm
St. John's Cookie Walk — 9 am -11 am

December 24 and December 25

Village Hall closed for Christmas Holiday

December 31 and January 1

Village Hall closed for New Year Holiday

December 26 to January 18

Holiday Tree Recycling — Drop off anytime at Irons Oaks

Saturday, January 7

Tree Recycling Community Drop Off Day — 9-Noon at Irons Oaks

January 16

Village Hall closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Community Relations — Community Day of Service

March 1 – April 15

2017 vehicle stickers and animal tags are on sale.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Flossmoor Accomplishments and Goals

A lot has been accomplished in our community, but there is more to do. The Village Board of Trustees, staff, and I are pleased to provide you with a summary of recent accomplishments and plans for the future of Flossmoor.

The final phase of our water main replacement project will be completed next summer. Construction costs for the project have been less than anticipated and if this trend continues in our last construction bid, the Village will be able to successfully complete approximately 6.7 total miles of water main. The Village is starting to see a reduction in the amount of water main breaks. When the bonds for this project are paid off in 2034, this debt will fall off residents' property tax bills.

Meijer, Bakewell Bakery, and Lou Malnati's Pizzeria have recently opened in Flossmoor and these businesses will bring additional revenue to the Village. The goal is to reduce the Village's dependence on residents for its share of your property tax bill which is currently approximately 15% of the total bill. Flossmoor's new and exciting businesses reflect our community's vibrancy and business friendly atmosphere. The Village Trustees and I want to continue to bring new businesses to Flossmoor and if you know of a business that is looking for a new or additional location, please call our inspectional services administrator, Scott Bugner at (708) 957-4101.

Flossmoor is truly a gem of a community. Our housing stock, schools, excellent village services, stable village finances, and our residents' involvement in community affairs are all attributes that need to be marketed and promoted. Christopher Paicely is our new marketing coordinator. Christopher joins us with a wealth of experience in promotion and marketing. He will be working on promoting Flossmoor through various platforms including social media. With the departure of an assistant to the village manager position, the employment of our village marketing coordinator will not increase the budget. We encourage you to email your suggestions to Chris at cpaicely@flossmoor.org

In 2016 the Public Works Department repaired or replaced some of the streets and sidewalks that needed attention. Our plan is to do more in 2017 with additional funds coming from our new businesses. As we attract more development, we will accelerate the schedule of streets and sidewalk repairs for this important village infrastructure.

Over the decades, parents chose to raise their families in Flossmoor because of the excellence of Flossmoor schools. Flossmoor grade schools and the high school combined receive approximately 66% of residents' property tax payments. Each of our schools has strengths but we all know there is room for improvement. The teachers work with our children at school. Parents, family members, friends, the Flossmoor Library, the HF Park District, and our community partners all can and must work with our children after school and on the weekends. By teaching and providing enrichment opportunities throughout each day, our children will be better prepared to enter the next level of their education, the rankings and reputation of our schools will improve, and more families will want to move to Flossmoor. As we conclude the year and move into 2017, I will work to support the school boards to provide the best education opportunities for our children.

Your thoughts and ideas for improvement of our village are always welcomed and appreciated. Your Village Board and I remain committed to making Flossmoor a great place to live, work, and raise our families.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support of our wonderful community!



Mayor Paul Braun

Paul S. Braun
Mayor



FLOSSMOOR
fest

The Village of Flossmoor thanks all residents, businesses, and participating organizations for helping make the **2016 Flossmoor Fest** a huge success!



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BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

Gingerbread Village Builds a Sweet Holiday Tradition

When Janet Gustafson's children were small, she assembled a miniature gingerbread house she'd seen in a magazine. Forty-five years later, that little house has become an entire gingerbread village.

The village takes six months and approximately 50 pounds of frosting to assemble and while Janet doesn't have an exact size, she says her creation fills her sun porch, which she describes as "huge."

With walls made entirely from gingerbread, Janet's detailed, multi-story buildings can include things like workshops for Santa's elves and a candy store. In a courtyard, you may find gingerbread elves skating on a pond or even a motorized, miniature amusement park. Strands of lights, frosted into place, illuminate the village.

Each year, the village has a new theme and different configuration, all created

without a pattern or a plan. "That's where it's fun," Janet said. "You have to be creative and make it work." Games and puzzles add to the gingerbread village experience, which Janet devises for visitors to solve.

Janet remembers how her late husband enjoyed lending a hand when needed. In fact, Janet said, it's the adults who take the most interest in the village. "Time after time, the kids are ready to leave and the moms want to see more. They bring in their husbands, who were waiting in the car, and the men like it as well."

Following a two-year hiatus, Janet's gingerbread village will be assembled and ready for viewing in time for this holiday season, and she's happy to bring it back.

"The holiday season can be difficult for a lot of people," Janet said. "They leave my house with a smile."

Winterfest Returns on December 3rd!

A quick look at what to expect at Winterfest. Celebrate the season at the Flossmoor Public Library!

- Storytime with Mayor Braun at 2 pm
- Santa Arrives at 2:30 pm
- Children's Holiday Activities from 2:30-5 pm
- Gingerbread House Tours from 3-5 pm
- Tree Lighting and Menorah Ceremony outside at 5 pm

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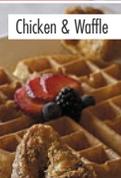
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 24 Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet
- November 30 Goose Island Beer Pairing Dinner
- December 3 2nd Annual Homewood Fashion Show
- December 6 Live Music by Steve & Nikki
- December 8 Live Music by Jim Bulanda
- December 13 Live Music by Marcy Daneille
- December 31 New Year's Eve Party

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Eva Kor and Alex Staton

TOUCHING TRIBUTE

HF Student Interviews Holocaust Survivor

*Alex Staton wears many hats. She is a high school senior, a member of the Illinois Institute of Technology Global Leaders Program and assistant news editor for *The Voyager*, Homewood-Flossmoor High School's news service.*

It was the last of these hats that ultimately placed Alex in front of Eva Kor, a Holocaust survivor. Alex interviewed Kor and published an emotional and inspiring story about pain and forgiveness. Alex shares her experience working on such an important story.

I've never interviewed people outside of my community up until this point, and most of the topics I've written about were relatively simple. Writing a story about such an inspirational woman was an honor, which made it even more nerve wracking. I knew she had been interviewed so many other times and I really wanted to make sure that my questions were developed and would make for an interesting story.

The nerves I felt sitting through her story, as I got closer to actually interviewing her, made me think my heart was going to hop out of my chest. I was going to write a story

that had to stand out and encompass this woman's amazing life. It would be one of the most difficult, yet rewarding, stories I've ever written.

I didn't want to write something that could be read anywhere. I had to decipher what I wanted and what I didn't want from my frantically written notes and really sit down and think about how I wanted to convey Kor's story because I could've written it ten different ways.

Not only did I get exposure for writing about a well-known figure, but I also learned lessons of forgiveness and strength. Not everyone gets an opportunity like this at a young age and I wanted to take full advantage of it.

Asking questions and having Eva Kor, as well as other reporters, be shocked that my questions were unique and thought-out really gave me more confidence in this story and future stories. I know that I have the capabilities to write exceptional stories and be an even better reporter than before.

*You can read Alex's story about Eva Kor in *The Voyager* at hfvoyager.com.*

NEWS TO USE!

St. Johns Annual Cookie Walk

The Church of Saint John the Evangelist will host its Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 3. The event will be held at the church, 2640 Park Drive, from 9am to 11am in the church's undercroft. A wide variety of homemade cookies and treats will be available. Create your own assortment and purchase by the pound.

The event is open to the public and raises money for local charities, such as PADS, South Suburban Family Shelter, Rich Township Food Pantry and Respond Now. For more information, please contact St. John's Church at 708-798-4150.



Parking in the Snow

Winter is coming! And with winter comes heavy snowfall, and the Village of Flossmoor is prepared to keep streets clear for travel. The Village begins plowing after snow accumulation exceeds 2-inches, and in order to ease snow removal process, street parking will be restricted at such times. These parking restrictions allow our plows easy maneuvering and significantly save time. Plowing priorities are as follows:

1. Central Business District
2. Principal arterial streets
3. Collector streets and parking lots
4. Local through streets
5. Cul-de-sacs and alleys

Although not a requirement, the Village is also asking residents to clear snow away from the public sidewalks in front of their homes as a courtesy to their neighbors and traveling public. Property owners are advised to push snow into a grass or landscape area rather than the street. Residents can view the snow removal policy on the Village's website under the Public Works Department section.



Save the Date: Recyclepalooza!

Mark your calendars for Recyclepalooza 2017, as the huge recycling event returns to the Parker Junior High parking lot, 2810 School Street, on Saturday, May 6, from 10am to 1pm.

Items to recycle include bikes, ink jets, American flags, pop tabs, magazines, hotel shampoos, plastic bags, plastic wrap, clothes, reusable bags, coats, sporting goods, cell phones, eyeglasses, electronics and more. There is a special recycling fee of \$20 per set for televisions. Expect more information closer to the event date.

Register for the 2017 MLK Day of Service

The Martin Luther King Day of Service returns on Monday, January 16! The Flossmoor Community Relations Commission implemented the national day of service, inspired by Dr. King, two years ago. Last year more than 200 community members, clubs and teams connected with ten local nonprofit organizations for the event and those service relationships have continued throughout the year, benefitting the Flossmoor community in a major way.

Let's keep growing! This year any local non-profit organizations are invited to register their MLK Day of Service project. Visit www.flossmoor.org to register a project or sign up to serve.

Lou Malnati's Returns!

On October 19th, Lou Malnati's Pizzeria celebrated its grand opening in the Flossmoor Commons, a location it previously occupied nearly 40 years ago. Stop in and pick up a pizza pie!



Holiday Safety Tips

Give your space heaters some space. They are convenient and efficient, but space heaters can also be dangerous if not used properly. The Flossmoor Fire Department advises residents to keep space heaters at least three feet away from walls, furniture, and other flammable objects, including blankets or clothes.

Get your chimney checked. Residents looking forward to firing up the fireplace for the first time this season should make sure their chimney has been inspected this year. A clean chimney is important as soot and debris build-up can lead to a house fire.

Careful with decorations. Residents will be pulling out the decorations soon, inadvertently increasing the potential for an electrical fire. Thousands of fires a year start from improper electrical use. Please take a moment and visit NFPA.org for more valuable and detailed information.

If you have questions, call the fire department's non-emergency phone number at (708) 798-3885 or stop by the fire station during the week.

A Reminder about Raffles

Raffles are an effective and efficient way to raise funds for many organizations or businesses. In fact, studies show that raffles, also called "charitable lotteries," produce more revenue than many other fundraising methods, and the Village encourages local organizations to pursue this approach. In an effort to ensure all residents and businesses know the proper process for conducting a raffle, the Village is providing some quick reminders about the laws regarding raffles.

- Raffles are a form of gambling and are regulated by the State and Village.
- All the proceeds of any raffle must be exclusively devoted to the lawful purposes of the organization conducting the game.
- Only religious, charitable, labor, fraternal, educational, business or veteran organizations are permitted to conduct raffles in Flossmoor.
- All of these groups are required to obtain a raffle license from the Village before conducting a raffle.
 - Organizations interested in a license should apply at least two weeks prior to the desired date to sell tickets.
 - State regulations state that violation of any provision of the Raffles Act is a Class C misdemeanor.

To learn more about conducting raffles in Flossmoor, contact the Village at 708-798-2300.

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business spotlight

Flossmoor Law Group Brings their Practice Home

In February 2016, Flossmoor welcomed Leland Grove Law, LLC to its new offices at 1032 Sterling Avenue.

The firm's principals, John and Stacey Shonkwiler, have lived in Flossmoor since 2002, a return to Stacey's hometown. "We love Flossmoor," John said of his wife's old stomping grounds. "This is our home and we've spent 14 years forming relationships here."

The civil law practice firm was founded out of a desire to serve the community with legal services of the highest quality at flexible, affordable rates. "We want to help restore people's faith in lawyers by being fair and honest, and doing great work," John added.

Stacey and John bring a combined experience of more than 33 years to Leland Grove. Stacey founded the firm in 2012 and operated it out of the family's house in Flossmoor Park until John joined in February this year.

Stacey's credentials include serving as staff attorney for the Illinois Supreme Court in Springfield, and serving seven years as elbow law clerk in the chambers of Justice Robert Cahill at the First District Illinois Appellate Court, Chicago.

As an associate equity partner at a litigation boutique firm, John earned recognition as a "Super Lawyer" by Thomson Reuters, and Law Bulletin Publishing named him a "Leading Lawyer" and one of "40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch." The Shonkwilers said the community's reception to Leland Grove Law has been overwhelmingly positive, with old and new friends stopping by, business neighbors welcoming them to the community, and seeing new faces daily.

Leland Grove Law has a second office located at 150 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. You can learn more about the firm by visiting www.lelandgrovelaw.com.

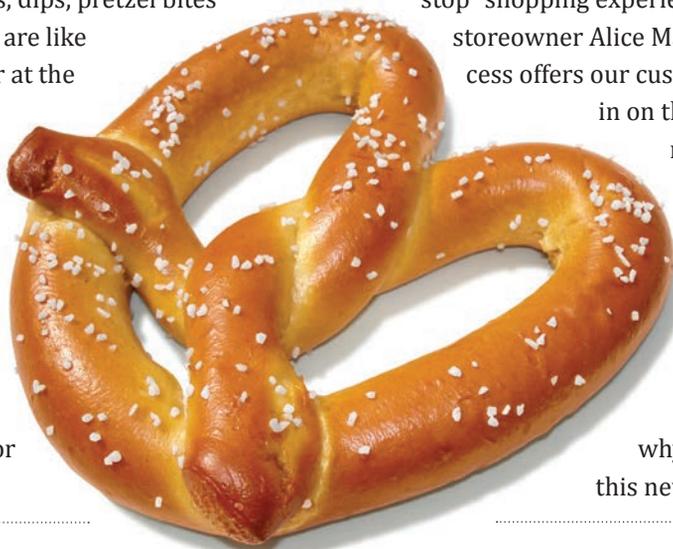


There's More in Store at Meijer!

When the new Meijer store opened its doors in the summer of 2016, Flossmoor gained more than one store. Meijer shoppers are able to include a haircut and light lunch to their grocery lists!

At Ben's Soft Pretzels, hungry shoppers find an array of tempting variations on a pretzel theme. Tasty offerings include jumbo pretzels, toppings, dips, pretzel bites and even pretzel pockets, which are like pretzel sandwiches. A best seller at the Meijer Flossmoor location is the pretzel dog sandwich.

Manager and son of the franchise owner, David Goshay, said response to the store has been amazing. "A lot of people are trying Ben's Soft Pretzels for the first time and love it," he said. "We have regulars who come in from Flossmoor and the surrounding villages."



Need a trim or a new do? Great Clips provides the convenience of haircuts with no appointment needed during daytime, evening and weekend hours, seven days a week.

Great Clips, a national franchise of 35 years, has relocated from their original Olympia Fields location of 19 years. "The move was based on partnering up with Meijer to offer a "one stop" shopping experience for our customers," said

storeowner Alice Madeja. "Our online check-in process offers our customer the opportunity to check in on their iPhones while shopping 10 minutes before they enter the salon and saves their spot to be in and out in 15 minutes."

"We have had a great response to our relocation," added store manager Leigh Haas. "Value, convenience, AND affordability have been why we are so excited to be part of this new venture."

Ownership of The Villager Brings Dream to Life

In February 2015, Valerie Warnsby realized a lifelong dream when she purchased The Villager Gift Shop in downtown Flossmoor.

Valerie has always enjoyed finding interesting things in small gift shops and boutiques and is delighted to offer area shoppers her own carefully chosen selection of merchandise. "People don't have to go downtown in search of high quality items," Valerie said. "We're right here in the neighborhood."

The Villager carries a distinctive selection of women's accessories, home décor, bath and body, as well as baby items in addition to greeting cards, stationery and more. Some apparel has also been added in response to customer requests.

Through these conversations with customers, Valerie learns the stories behind gifts they are buying and is able to provide informed, insightful assistance. "I think gift-giving is one of our greatest expressions of our humanity," Valerie said. "We see our gifts as a representation of who we are as a person."

One of Valerie's goals is to deepen The Villager's engagement with the area. She hosts unique events, explores fund-raising opportunities for local concerns and seeks out unique merchandise from area artists. She invited a 12-year-old Parker Junior High School student and budding artist to display some of her pieces at the store during Flossmoor Fest, two of which sold.

Valerie has found that people enjoy spending time in the peaceful, welcoming atmosphere she's created. "I've always wanted to own a shop that was a community meeting place where people felt comfortable to come in and spend hours. So many community stories come up every day," Valerie said. Her future plans include a website re-design, adding e-commerce capabilities. Visit The Villager website at www.thevillagergiftshop.com.

Shop Local! Small Business Saturday Returns

A look at the dark green awnings on Sterling Avenue and a visit to the Flossmoor Commons will show just how important family-owned businesses are to the Village of Flossmoor. These are the stores, restaurants and services that capture the community spirit of our town. That's why shopping local is so important!

Whether it's local eateries like Fresh Starts and Flossmoor Station, hair stylists like Cutters for Men and Express Yourself or niche services like Tovar Shoe Repair and Healthy Hounds, the Village is encouraging residents to support local businesses.

A prime opportunity to explore and enjoy those businesses comes Saturday, November 26, when Small Business Saturday returns. The Flossmoor Business Association sponsors the annual event, which allows the businesses to take center stage for a day and display their wares and services all over the village, all as part of an effort to inspire buying local.

On a national level Small Business Saturday is intentionally set between the Black Friday and Cyber Monday retailer crazes as a way to redirect attention toward smaller businesses.



**Calling
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PULLUP ACHAIR

A special thanks to all who supported and attended this charitable art auction, and kudos to the Flossmoor Public Art Commissioners who worked hard to make the evening a success.



DOING GOOD WITH GREEN

HF High School Garden Feeds Those in Need

How does a green project for high school students turn into food and encouragement for the hungry? The answer is all in the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Viking Garden.

The garden started with an anonymous donation from a generous HF alumnus. Since then, it has grown into a fun, educational tool for teaching students about growing and harvesting organic produce.

As the project has continued into its second year, the HF Viking Garden Leaders, composed of students and several community organizations, decided to include students from Parker Junior High and James Hart students through the health education classes and National Junior Honor Society volunteer experiences.

Malika Toguem, a Viking Garden student leader, said she had a wonderful experience bringing the junior high students into the fold.

"I really felt myself getting to know the future young leaders at the junior high schools," Malika said. "I never really thought that people would care about a little garden in the corner of HF, but I was pleasantly surprised to see so many kids willing to get involved in the garden at such a young age."

As the gardening season came to an end in early October, seven Parker students helped harvest the remaining vegetables, herbs and flowers. The school then donated the plants to the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood, which serves free dinner every Monday night to people in need.

The Rev. Nancy Jo Dederer, pastor of the church, said the church made good use of the food and flowers. "We were able to set [flowers] out on our sharing table for our dinner guests to take home with them," Dederer said. "And by the end of the meal, all the veggies were gone! As guests left for the evening, many carried colorful flowers with them too, and one even put a bloom behind his ear!"

Dederer said one guest took the remaining flowers and said she would lay them atop her mother's grave.



HF Students Pictured: Jayla Watkins, Bella Strohmeier, Xavier Harrison, Maya Fetherling, Chloe Nesbit, Josiah Griggs and Andrea Flores.

Parker students who took part in the last harvest of season were honored to take part. "I had an excellent time," said Maya Fetherling. "Mrs. [Carrie] Malfeo and Mrs. [Maggie] Bachus were very nice and helped us with our work. I was able to cut flowers and arrange them in jars to make a bouquet for the less fortunate. It was a nice deed to help others and hopefully make their day."

"I thought this was a great experience," Xavier Harrison added. "It felt nice to pick fresh fruits and vegetables that were going to be given to the less fortunate. I would most definitely do this again."

As the Viking Garden continues forward and students graduate, HF is identifying new student leaders and seeking out volunteers that want to educate the community about the best practices in growing food. The Viking Leaders also plan to continue selling at the Homewood Farmer's Market and sharing produce with other local organizations and businesses.

Christmas Tree Recycling Tradition Continues

For the seventh straight year, Flossmoor residents can recycle their holiday trees at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center.

Saturday, January 7 has been set as the official 2017 Christmas tree drop-off date. Between the hours of 9am and noon, volunteers at the Irons Oaks Vollmer Road parking lot will help remove trees from vehicles and add them to a growing pile of holiday foliage. Refreshments and a warm fire will be available for those in the mood to celebrate the New Year.

Additionally, trees can be dropped off at Irons Oaks anytime between Monday, December 26, and Wednesday, January 18. Please remember that trees must be completely free of ornaments, tinsel, tags, plastic and wire.

In the first six years of the program, more than 3,500 trees that otherwise would have headed for landfill have been recycled and used at various HF Park District facilities. We are also collecting holiday lights for recycling. Lights can be dropped off anytime from Monday, November 21, to Wednesday, January 18, at Flossmoor Village Hall, HF Ice Arena, HF Racquet & Fitness Club, Irons Oaks, Irwin Community Center and Wiley's Grill.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Molski at (312)804-0496 or via email at info@hfchristmastreerecycling.org. You can also visit the website, www.hfchristmastreerecycling.org.



THE BIG GREEN

Meijer's Environmental Contribution

When the Flossmoor Meijer opened its doors in June of 2016, we all knew the big retailer would bring the village new jobs, new businesses, and a new place to shop.

But wait, there's more! Meijer prides itself on being one of the nation's major green retailers. From using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidelines to erect its Flossmoor building to providing locally grown organic produce to including E-85 Flex Fuel at its gas station pumps, Meijer is taking an environmentally conscious approach to its business.

That's why it's no surprise that Meijer fits right in with the Flossmoor Green Committee's Start a Bag Habit campaign, adding itself to the list of locations in the area that recycles shopping bags to reduce plastic pollution. You can also recycle your plastic shopping bags year round at Walt's, Target, Kohl's and many other large stores in our area.

Flossmoor School District 161 Green Teams also participates in the TREX Plastic Bag Recycling Con-



test. You can find special "spring" drop off locations at many of the SD 161 Schools, Sunrise Health Foods, Flossmoor Village Hall and Flossmoor Library.

To learn more about Meijer's green initiatives, please visit meijercommunity.com.

flossmoor faces & places

Artists Celebrates Flossmoor with Chair Design

Karen Dal Santo loves Flossmoor. She also loves creating art and teaching, and recently Karen seized the opportunity to unite those three loves.



Artist Karen Dal Santo

When the Village announced Pull Up a Chair, an auction of altered chairs to benefit the Flossmoor Public Art Commission, Karen saw it as a chance to create something truly “Flossmoor.”

“I submitted a chair that could actually be used as a chair, as well as depicting some history of Flossmoor,” Karen said of her work. “A comfortable

chair to depict how and why Flossmoor developed as a town... as a place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city, an escape to a comfortable, relaxed way of living.”

The chair depicts a skyline of Chicago as well as the Metra railway that connects Flossmoor to the city. Finally, Karen portrays Flossmoor itself as a flowering peony, a flower she sees every day just outside her house. While originally from the West

Pullman area on the south side of Chicago, Karen and her family have become deeply engrained in Flossmoor for years. Her children went to school at Infant Jesus of Prague, then Homewood-Flossmoor High School, and in 2013, Karen opened a studio in downtown Flossmoor where she creates commissioned pet portraits, architec-

tural drawings and watercolor art. She also teaches two- and three-dimensional art techniques to students of all ages.

“Students come to me from as far as St. John, Indiana and Beecher,” Karen said of her class. “I conduct individual and group lessons, ladies nights out and birthday parties. I especially enjoy guiding students through the thought process of how a piece of art comes into being.”

Having grown her friendships, relationships and business in Flossmoor, Karen’s altered chair is a labor of love that represents both the village and the artist that calls it home.

“I wanted to give something back to a community,” Karen said, “which has given so much to me.”

At the Pull Up a Chair event, Mayor Paul Braun bid on Karen’s chair and won, donating the chair to the Village. “I was the lucky bidder and the chair will be on display for everyone coming to Village Hall to enjoy,” Mayor Braun said. “It’s residents like Karen Dal Santo that make Flossmoor a great place to live, work, and raise families.”

New Sculpture Casts a Shadow Over Leavitt Park

When Michael Grucza created Me and My Shadow he had simplicity in mind. “It’s the first drawing every kid makes in school,” he said. “You know, the stick drawing.”

Now complete and catching the eyes of passers-by at Leavitt Park, the metallic sculpture composed of powder-coated aluminum tubing and perforated polished stainless steel appears much more complex.

And the sculpture itself is only part of the image. As the name suggests, the shadow cast on the ground beneath the piece adds a new layer to appreciate, producing another interpretation of that simple house as well as acting as the gnomon of a sundial.

Grucza, originally from Cleveland, said he grew up around figurines and was attracted to them at a young age. He later attended the Cleveland Institute of Art and then earned his graduate degree from the University of Iowa before moving to Chicago to pursue a career in sculpture. Now at 62, Grucza continues living his passion with Me and My Shadow.

“Children’s drawings as well as magicians’ illusions inspire me,” Grucza says. “These influences find their way into my work through simple lines, shapes and structures, many of which include kinetic and interactive elements.”



Village Shake-Up! Fresh Faces, New Roles

Since the last newsletter, the Village has added three new faces to the team and transitioned five dedicated employees into exciting new roles!

Laura Brennan-Levy has been hired as the Program and Event Coordinator and will be providing staff support to three of the Village commissions and organizing the Village's events, including Flossmoor Fest, Winter Fest and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Laura is a Flossmoor resident and a dedicated community volunteer, having most recently served as chair of the Community Relations Commission. She has a background in human resources and is a University of Illinois graduate.

Christopher Paicely has been hired as the Marketing Coordinator and will oversee public relations and social media for the Village. Chris has a background in both journalism and public relations, handling communications for the City of Chicago Heights and Bloom Township High School. Chris earned a Master of Science in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Dave Becker has been hired as the Village's new Forestry Maintenance Technician, who is responsible for managing the Village's forestry and horticulture programs as well as responding to citizen requests. Coming from the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Dave is currently studying Landscape and Turf Management at the Joliet Junior College. He is also an ISA Certified Arborist, bringing an extensive knowledge in the Arboriculture and Horticulture fields. Dave is a great addition to the Public Works team.

Ken Schmidt has been promoted to the Street Foreman for the Public Works Department, which is responsible for all street and building maintenance programs. Ken has been an employee of the Village since 2006, starting as a temporary employee before becoming a full-time Maintenance Worker. Ken has been a great leader in this department and will serve the Public Works team very well as a foreman and supervisor.

Joshua Evans has been promoted to Full-Time Maintenance Worker and will be working on street and water and sewer projects in the Public Works Department. Josh has been an employee of the Village since 2014 and also serves as a volunteer on the Flossmoor Fire Department. Josh works hard and is a strong addition to the team.

As part of a reorganization of the Village Finance Department, **Jan Gawczynski** has transitioned from Accountant to Assistant Finance Director, assuming additional management, accounting and project responsibilities. **Sally Zamkin** is also taking on a new role as the General Finance Clerk, assuming the accounts receivable responsibilities and an expanded role in utility billing.

LaWanda Harris, formerly a part-time assistant, is the new Cashier/Receptionist at Village Hall. LaWanda has been a loyal, hard working, valuable contributor to the Finance Department and we are excited that she will be joining us in a full-time capacity.



Laura Brennan-Levy



Christopher Paicely



Dave Becker



Ken Schmidt



Joshua Evans



Jan Gawczynski



Sally Zamkin



LaWanda Harris

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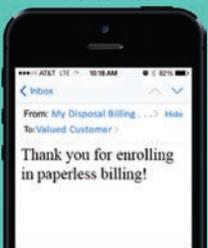
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