

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

Winter 2023
Volume 33 / Number 3



CELEBRATE THE SEASON

'Tis the season for celebrating as a community!
Join your neighbors and friends in Downtown
Flossmoor on Saturday, Nov. 25, for music, fun,
photo opportunities and more; see details on
page 3.

Community Introductions

*Welcome Officer Morris
and PoppinCorks Bistro!*
Page 5 and Page 9

Seasonal Safety

*Tips to be safe when
shopping & shoveling.*
Pages 6-7

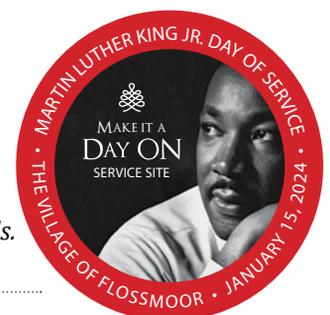
Property Tax Q&A

*Learn about Village
finances & property taxes.*
Page 8



FLOSSMOOR

Make your Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day off a day on!
Visit www.flossmoor.org to get involved and see page 4 for more details.



village officials

Michelle Nelson, Mayor
mnelson@flossmoor.org

George Lofton, Trustee
glofton@flossmoor.org

Joni Bradley-Scott, Trustee
jbradleyscott@flossmoor.org

James Mitros, Trustee
jmitros@flossmoor.org

Gary Daggett, Trustee
gdaggett@flossmoor.org

Rosalind Mustafa, Trustee
rmustafa@flossmoor.org

Brian Driscoll, Trustee
bdriscoll@flossmoor.org

Gina LoGalbo, Village Clerk
glogalbo@flossmoor.org

Bridget Wachtel, Village Manager
bwachtel@flossmoor.org

village numbers

Village Hall: (708) 798-2300
Fire: (708) 798-3885
Non-Emergency Police: (708) 957-4500
Non-Emergency TDD: (708) 647-0179
Public Works: (708) 957-4100
Building Department: (708) 957-4101
Emergency Only: 911

village meetings

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

Plan Commission Meeting
3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals
4th Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.

Public Art Commission Meeting
2nd Monday of the Month at 7 p.m.

Community Relations Commission Meeting
4th Monday of the Month at 7 p.m.

Green Commission Meeting
3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7 p.m.

    **#ThisIsFlossmoor**
#Flossmoor365

Find us on social media! Look for updates, photos, videos and good conversation on Facebook and Instagram! We truly appreciate all the residents, business owners and visitors who have supported us and joined the conversation!

calendar

flossmoor.org

Thursday, Nov. 23 & Friday, Nov. 24

Village Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Saturday, Nov. 25

Small Business Saturday — All Day / Village-wide. Check off some items on your holiday to-do list by shopping local! Celebrate Flossmoor's excellent small businesses and all they have to offer. Hosted by the Flossmoor Business Association in partnership with the Village of Flossmoor.

Celebrate the Season — 3-5:30 p.m. / Downtown. Visit with Santa and enjoy hot chocolate on the Flossmoor Library lawn, then head to Flossmoor Park for caroling and the annual Holiday Tree Lighting.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Gingerbread Village Tours — 4-6 p.m. Register at www.flossmoor.org for a tour of Janet Gustafson's unique, homemade Gingerbread Village. Tours of six people will take place every 15 min.

Dec. 7-15

Menorah Lighting — 5 p.m. / Flossmoor Park. Join us for the lighting of Flossmoor's menorah for Hanukkah. Interested in lighting the menorah? Sign up at www.flossmoor.org.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Holiday Performance — 11 a.m. / Flossmoor Public Library. Enjoy this special show for kids with Nanny Nikki! Register at www.flossmoorlibrary.org.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Holiday Lights Parade — 4:30-6 p.m. / Village-wide. Take in the sights and sounds of season as the Flossmoor Police, Fire & Public Works Departments travel through the neighborhoods with their vehicles adorned with holiday displays.

Friday, Dec. 22 & Monday, Dec. 25

Village Hall will be closed in observance of Christmas.

Dec. 26-Jan. 1

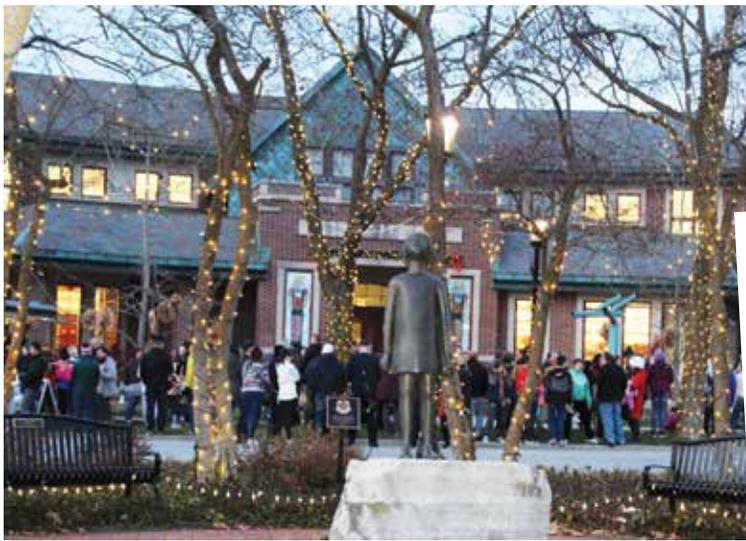
Kinara Lighting — 5 p.m. / Flossmoor Park. Join us for the lighting of the kinara for Kwanzaa. Interested in lighting the kinara? Sign up at www.flossmoor.org.

Friday, Dec. 29 & Monday, Jan. 1

Village Hall will be closed in observance of the New Year.

Monday, Jan. 15

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service — All Day / Various Sites. Join in the day of service, hosted by the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission. Visit www.flossmoor.org to get involved. (Village Hall will be closed for regular business.)



LET IT SHINE, FLOSSMOOR!

Flossmoor will come alive with holiday beauty and spirit once again this season. There are many days — and ways — of celebrating with neighbors and friends:

Celebrate the Season / Small Business Saturday

Support local businesses and the Flossmoor Business Association with shopping specials all day on Small Business Saturday: Nov. 25. The fun will start at 3 p.m. when Santa arrives for photos, and hot chocolate is served by Homewood-Flossmoor High School VAST on the lawn of the Flossmoor Public Library. Spend time exploring Downtown Flossmoor, which will come alive with music and be adorned with holiday lights and decorations. Around 5 p.m. members of the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Viking Choir will join Santa to lead a parade of carolers to Flossmoor Park for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting with Mayor Michelle Nelson. At 5:30 p.m. the switch will be flipped to officially light up the holiday season. *New this year: Enjoy a luminary display and sale from Flossmoor Service League and bring in donations for the Illinois Veterans' Home, which are being collected by the Community Relations Commission!*

Gingerbread House Tours

On Saturday, Dec. 2, you can experience a one-of-a-kind holiday treat right here in Flossmoor, as resident Janet Gustafson's unique Gingerbread Village Display opens to the public from 4-6 p.m. This intricate display can only be viewed by registering at flossmoor.org.

Menorah Lighting

Join fellow residents and visitors every evening at 5 p.m. from Thursday, Dec. 7, through Friday, Dec. 15, for the daily lighting of the community menorah to celebrate Hanukkah. Interested in lighting the menorah? Sign up at flossmoor.org.

Holiday Performance

Bring the whole family out to join Nanny Nikki for a Holiday Music Show at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, inside the Flossmoor Public Library. Kids (and adults) can enjoy singing and dancing before earning a special treat at the end of the show.

Santa's Senior Helpers

Flossmoor will partner with the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, the Village of Homewood and Homewood-Flossmoor High School for a special day on Saturday, Dec. 16, when area seniors partner with high school seniors to help Santa with all of the letters he receives. Volunteer seniors are needed between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Wiley's Grill. Contact the park district for more information: 708-957-0300.

Holiday Lights Parade

Flossmoor's newest tradition returns on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 4:30 p.m. as the Flossmoor Police, Fire and Public Works Departments take to the streets in decorated vehicles for the Holiday Lights Parade. Set up a lawn chair or lay out a blanket on your lawn and watch as the fleet of brightly lit vehicles travels through Flossmoor neighborhoods. Check out a route map at flossmoor.org.

Kinara Lighting

At 5 p.m. each night from Tuesday, Dec. 26, through Monday, Jan. 1, final lights will be lit for the season: the kinara in celebration of Kwanzaa. If you are interested in lighting the kinara, please visit flossmoor.org to register. All are welcome!

Stay up-to-date on all celebrations this season by following the Village of Flossmoor on Facebook (@FlossmoorIL) and Instagram (@VillageofFlossmoor), or by visiting flossmoor.org.

flossmoor faces & places

Day of Service Challenge

For nearly a decade, Flossmoor has been sponsoring its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service as a way to coordinate hundreds of volunteers to help with a variety of non-profit service projects to make this “day off” a “day on.” Now as Flossmoor approaches its 100th birthday, the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission would like to challenge individuals

and non-profit organizations to make this day — Monday, Jan. 15 — the biggest Day of Service yet!

Already scheduled service projects include a blood drive (Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity), a cold-weather apparel drive for Respond Now (Girl Scout Troop 65152), lunch prep for South Suburban Pads (You Matter 2) and a nature clean

up at Sandridge Nature Center (Forest Preserve District of Cook County).

“We have a responsibility as human beings to take care of nature in our green spaces. In return, the benefits to our community and our future generations would be beyond measure,” says Jackie Riffice, Vice Chair of Flossmoor’s Community Relations Commission. “Paying a kindness forward can make us all feel better. This Day of Service in Flossmoor is the perfect opportunity to make a difference and bring brighter possibilities to our neighbors.”

Many more projects are needed! Suggestions include:

- A repair fair where volunteers fix broken household items.
- A school supply drive or a school beautification project.
- A yardwork or maintenance crew for neighbors in need.
- Food, bedding or backpack drive for migrants in Chicago.
- A donation drive for an animal rescue organization.
- Care packages for members of the military.
- Free skill workshops for the community.
- Visiting, playing games, singing or reading with seniors at an assisted living center.

For more information, to share an idea or to host a service project, contact Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Wright at 708-335-5472 or swright@flossmoor.org. If you are ready to volunteer, sign up at flossmoor.org.



Volunteers — including U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly — help out making fleece blankets at a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project in 2023.



Students from the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Wrestling team read with youngsters during a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project in 2023.

Lippert Receives Social Justice Award

Members of the National Council of Jewish Women South Cook chapter gathered this summer at Idlewild Country Club to present past-president and Flossmoor resident Gloria Lippert with the Hannah B. Solomon Award, the highest honor offered by the group, a progressive organization of volunteer advocates dedicated to social justice. The award named for a founder who worked with both Jane Addams and Susan B. Anthony on the 1889 establishment of Hull-House has gone to just four women prior to Lippert in the history of the NCJW.

“Where there’s a woman, there’s a way,” Lippert said during her acceptance speech, attributing her lifetime of giving back to her father’s continual emphasis on the subject.

Keynote speaker Congresswoman Robin Kelly’s speech highlighted Lippert’s dedication to diversity, along with her legendary hosting generosity, and willingness to offer helpful suggestions to those in need.

“In this, she is truly the embodiment of Jewish values,” Kelly said. “There’s a lot of talk about faith in the Capitol, but action on that faith is often much harder to come by.”

Lippert — whose list of personal accomplishments ranges from being named to the Illinois Art Educator’s Council, to fostering 22 children, to coordinating workshops for the Anti-Defamation League and leading a local PADS team — used her speech to express gratitude to the group.

“This organization became the focus of my energy and my advocacy,” she said. “I have found that if I attempt to fight



Gloria Lippert proudly receiving NCJW's Hannah B. Solomon Award, the highest honor offered by the group, a progressive organization of volunteer advocates dedicated to social justice.

any battle alone, my voice is lost in a sea of chatter.” NCJW changed that, she said, concentrating the calls of its members: “My voice becomes enhanced, magnified and powerful. All of us together, we accomplish much.”



New Flossmoor Police Officer Benjamin Morris (right) is congratulated by Flossmoor Deputy Chief Keith Taylor following the Oct. 2 Village Board Meeting at Village Hall.

Meet Officer Benjamin Morris

In October, the Flossmoor Police Department welcomed a new member: Officer Benjamin Morris of Flossmoor. This spring, he graduated from the Chicago Police Academy, as well as Trinity Christian College with a bachelor’s degree with high honors in Criminal Justice and Psychology, while completing his training in Flossmoor. Originally from South Holland, Officer Morris’ career choice was inspired by his uncle, Tom Weitzel, former Police Chief for Riverside. His parents and siblings joined him for his swearing-in ceremony at the Oct. 2 Village Board Meeting. “I am excited to begin my law enforcement career here in Flossmoor, and I look forward to serving my community,” he says.

NEWS TO USE!

Snow Season Reminders

During winter, the Public Works Department strives to provide residents with the highest possible level of service, and to promote a safe environment for pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The department takes this responsibility very seriously, and works to continuously improve its snow-removal operations. Below are some reminders regarding the Snow & Ice Control Policy and some recommended snow-removal tips:

- Salting of streets in the Central Business District and along principal routes, key intersections, hills and curves, is conducted whenever icy or slippery conditions become hazardous. The Village tries to balance its priority of ensuring public safety with its concern for the severe pollutant effects of salt on the environment.
- Snow plowing begins when accumulation amounts to more than two inches. However, the Village is not responsible for plowing roadways that are under another agencies' jurisdiction. These roads include: Crawford Ave., Governors Hwy., Western Ave., Dixie Hwy., Kedzie Ave., Vollmer Road, Holbrook Road and Flossmoor Road (between Crawford & Governors Hwy.). Plowing continues in other areas as long as required to maintain passable roadways. 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
- Please do not allow children to play on or around the street during a storm or afterwards. Visibility is often limited during snowplowing efforts. Snow forts or tunnels in snowbanks present a serious hazard. In addition, sledding areas and toys should be kept far away from the street.
- Please do not attempt to get the attention of snowplow operators, even while they are stopped, as weather conditions could still make it difficult for them to see you. If you would like to request service or to report a problem during a snow event, please contact either Public Works (708-957-4100) or the Police Department (708-957-4500, non-emergency) directly.
- If possible, shovel driveway aprons only after roadways are completely cleared. This will eliminate the need to shovel more than once.
- Please help keep hydrants clear for quick access when needed by the Flossmoor Fire Department. If possible, please shovel a path from the hydrant to the street, sidewalk or driveway.
- Do not push snow into or across the street. This not only creates an additional hazard, but also may result in the same snow being deposited in your neighbor's driveway should the snowplow make an additional pass.
- In order to make pedestrian travel safer and easier for everyone, clear snow and ice from the walks adjacent to your property.
- Remember that parking is prohibited on streets when there is at least 2 inches of snow.
- Maintain and repair mailboxes and posts. Check your mailbox to make sure it is secured properly to the post and does not extend past the face of the curb.



Post Boxes & Plows

During snowfall events, it is possible for mailboxes to be damaged by the force of snow as it comes off a snowplow blade. Be aware that a mailbox with one or more of the following issues has an increased likelihood of being damaged as a result of snow being pushed from the roadway:

1. the mailbox is not set far enough from the back of the curb or edge of shoulder;
2. the mailbox post materials are degraded; or
3. the mailbox is not properly affixed to the post.

If any of the aforementioned conditions apply to your mailbox, please consider repairing or replacing your mailbox. Please note: Mailboxes that are damaged by the force of snow as it comes off the plow of Village vehicles will not be compensated for. However, the Village will replace a damaged mailbox that is directly contacted by a plow. If a repair is not possible due to weather conditions, we will make a temporary repair with permanent repairs to be done in the spring.

Residential Drainage Form

Flossmoor has announced its a Residential Drainage Improvement Program, designed to help residents solve their drainage problems in order to keep their properties safe from potential flood damages and to mitigate issues associated with standing water on properties. This program is geared towards storm water threats to habitable structures that impact at least two properties; it is not intended for sanitary sewer back-ups. A form is available at Public Works or online. Staff will then contact you to schedule an inspection of the drainage problem to determine what level of assistance the Village can provide to resolve the problem. This program is being managed by Public Works Director John Brunke, PE, CFM, who is a Professional Licensed Engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager in Illinois. For more information, contact jbrunke@flossmoor.org or 708-957-4100.

Need a Holiday Gift Idea?

Consider an engraved brick in Downtown Flossmoor for a special person or to commemorate a family milestone this year! Cost is \$125 per brick, a tax-deductible donation used to support Flossmoor's public art program. Visit www.flossmoor.org/269/Public-Art-Commission for more information.



Holiday Shopping Tips from the Flossmoor Police Department

Parking Lots

- Park near parking lot lights.
- Back into spaces when possible.
- Write down or store your parking lot location in your phone.
- Use the panic button on key FOB to help locate your car or to draw attention.
- Always secure your vehicle, and don't unlock it until you are within a few feet.
- Never leave your car running and unattended.
- Stow packages in the trunk or covered on the floor.

In-Store Shopping

- Do not leave a purse, wallet, phone or children unattended/open in a cart.
- Be aware of distraction tactics used by thieves, such as the bump and grab.
- Be alert to your surroundings even with uniformed police or security nearby.
- Store money and credit cards securely before exiting a building.



At Home/Delivery

- Bring packages in through a closed garage.
- Break down boxes of anything of value and place them in recycling bins.
- Keep gifts out of sight from windows and close your blinds when no one is home.
- Lock doors, windows, garage doors and car doors, day and night.
- Schedule deliveries when someone is home to receive them.
- Request signature upon delivery when possible.
- Have mail held at the post office while out of town.
- Use a Ring doorbell or other surveillance options.
- Request to be added to the Flossmoor Police Department house watch list if traveling by completing the House Watch Request Form online.

Tree & Holiday Lights Recycling

For more than a decade, Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center and the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District have been keeping holiday trees and lights out of landfills. When you are finished with your real holiday tree this year, drop it off at the Irons Oaks Vollmer Road lot between Dec. 26-Jan. 20. Be sure it is clear of ornaments, garland and tinsel, and it can be reused as mulch. If you have any holiday lights or extension cords that have outlived their use, drop them off between Nov. 20-Jan. 20 in bins at any of the following locations: the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club, Irwin Community Center, Goldberg Administration Center, Park Place in Flossmoor Park or Irons Oaks. For more information, call 708-957-0300 or visit hfparks.com.

school spotlight

Homewood-Flossmoor High School Celebrates the Importance of Dads

Homewood-Flossmoor High School welcomed more than 80 dads to campus for a day in October for an event that is sure to have made a lasting impact on students and the entire school community. The Dad Squad is a beacon of positivity and support for HF students and staff. These dedicated fathers and granddads came to the school with a mission – to promote positivity, inspire and encourage the entire school community.

Flossmoor High School, fostering an environment where every student feels supported and empowered,” says Hubert Stallings, HFPA Vice President. “The collaboration between the school administration and the Homewood-Flossmoor Parent Association (HFPA) for this event is a testament to our commitment to our students’ well-being and success. Together, we are excited to create an atmosphere where our students can thrive.”

tor. His powerful words and insights are a source of inspiration for both the Dad Squad members and the school community as a whole.

“The community needs fathers,” Alexander says. “Though we are taking care of our children, though they are protecting their children, cultivating their children, it takes more. If we are not mindful of the needs of the community, then we are falling short. Your child has to leave the fatherhood and enter into school, into the community, and get impacted by whatever goes on in those spaces. Our duty is to expand our hood to cover the community. We must get involved in all aspects of our community.”

Flossmoor Police Chief Jerel Jones and officers joined the Dad Squad, engaging with students during lunch periods while passing out coffee and candy. Chief Jones thanked the dads for the active role they take to inspire students, and he extended a hand to collaborate with the group to build relationships between the Police Department and the community.

“Dad Squad was an amazing opportunity to meet and discuss the importance of building relationships with our fathers and our youth,” says Chief Jones. “This is a necessary partnership as we continue to build strong bonds with our school district, our youth, our parents and our community.”

Homewood-Flossmoor Principal Dr. Clinton Alexander says it was a remarkable day at the school, filled with camaraderie and fellowship: “The Dad Squad event is not just about fathers and granddads; it’s about the entire school community coming together to make a positive difference in the lives of our students.”



Dad Squad members greet HF students as they arrive for school on a Monday morning.

“Good morning, Vikings,” Dad Squad members could be heard greeting students at 8 a.m. on a Monday as they arrived on campus, giving fist bumps and high fives. Sleepy eyes turned to smiles as students heard the greetings from the men. Studies have shown that students respond differently when fathers are present, and the Dad Squad was created with this knowledge in mind.

“Our aim is to enhance the culture and climate of Homewood-

The Dad Squad toured classrooms and interacted with students and staff throughout the day, learning about the opportunities available to their children. During passing periods, the dads passed out candy, brightened students’ days with dad jokes, and shared words of encouragement to the Viking scholars.

One of the highlights of this event was the presence of Algenay Alexander, a renowned inspiration, motivational speaker, consultant and educa-

business spotlight

New Spot to Share Your Celebrations

Flossmoor is pleased to announce that there is a new full-service restaurant in town: PoppinCorks Bistro, located at 3311 Vollmer Road in Flossmoor Commons. As its name suggests, celebrations will be its specialty.

“We would like our patrons to think of us when it is time for special occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, award ceremonies and any event that has cause to pop a cork, whether it be champagne or other beverage that has a cork,” says Randall Smith, co-owner.

The featured cuisine at this cozy and inviting restaurant is All-American with highlights such as hamburgers, pasta, steaks, seafood and pork chops. A favorite specialty of Smith’s is his BBQ Brisket Flatbread, a smoky brisket topped with shredded Gouda cheese and thinly sliced jalapeno peppers on a lightly baked flatbread. Smith and his wife and co-owner, Toya Smith, are small business owners with backgrounds in real estate, food service and staffing.

“We are ecstatic to be able to open a restaurant in a Village that has welcomed us as entrepreneurs and have been proud to call home for 17 years,” says Smith.

Currently, PoppinCorks Bistro is for dine-in customers only, although there are plans to expand for carryout ordering and catering. Hours are Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., and Fridays & Saturdays from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Check them out in person and online at PoppinCorksBistro.com.



Retail Recruitment

Flossmoor has partnered with The Retail Coach to launch a new retail recruitment website — www.retail360.us/flossmoor-illinois/ — which is filled with tools and resources for business development within the Village. In addition to maps, demographics and retail market profiles, the site highlights four major commercial areas: Downtown Flossmoor (centrally located near the Flossmoor Metra station); Southwest Flossmoor (located at the corner of Vollmer Road and Crawford Avenue); Flossmoor Commons (located at Vollmer Road between Governors Highway and Kedzie Avenue); and

Governors Triangle (located across from the University of Chicago Medical Center of Governors Highway).

The Village has been working with The Retail Coach of Austin, Texas, since March 2023 on a scope of work centered around retail analysis, site marketing and making progress on a retail recruitment plan. They currently have more than 40 businesses — including many restaurants — that are actively reviewing Flossmoor as a destination for their business.

Flossmoor native Dr. Cary Goldberg, D.D.S., of the Center for Dental Excellence (19615 Governors Highway) says he chose to expand his

business in Flossmoor’s Governors Triangle area to have a convenient location to care for his patients; he found the process as excellent from start to finish.

“Communication and accessibility to Village officials were keys to keeping our expansion on track,” he says. “Knowing that we had options when it came to where we chose to expand, Village representatives supported and encouraged us, showing up at our ground breaking, grand opening and many times in-between.”

To share retail opportunities or leads with the Village, please email info@flossmoor.org.

PROPERTY TAX Q&A

Flossmoor wants residents and property owners to be knowledgeable about its finances and property taxes. The Village has compiled a list of commonly asked questions regarding taxes and spending on its website. Here are a few of the Q&As below:

Q: *I'm new to Flossmoor. Why do property taxes seem so high?*

A: Flossmoor, compared to many surrounding communities, has fewer commercial, retail and industrial properties to contribute to its tax base. As a result, a larger portion of the tax burden falls on residential properties. For this reason, new economic development is one of the Village's top priorities to not only provide amenities to our community, but also to share in the property taxes. The tax rate for commercial property is 25% of the assessed valuation, as compared to 10% for residential property, which means commercial properties assume more of the property taxes compared to residential taxpayers. In addition, Flossmoor benefits from sales tax revenue, which also increases when we have more retail commercial businesses. Recent commercial development — such as Meijer and Dunkin'— have increased the tax base for the Village dramatically. Flossmoor increased revenue in 2018 when residents voted for a non-home rule sales tax in Flossmoor of 1%. Flossmoor receives 100% of this 1%. This tax added nearly \$700,000 to the General Fund in fiscal year ending April 2023 and is projected to add \$680,000 for fiscal year 2024.

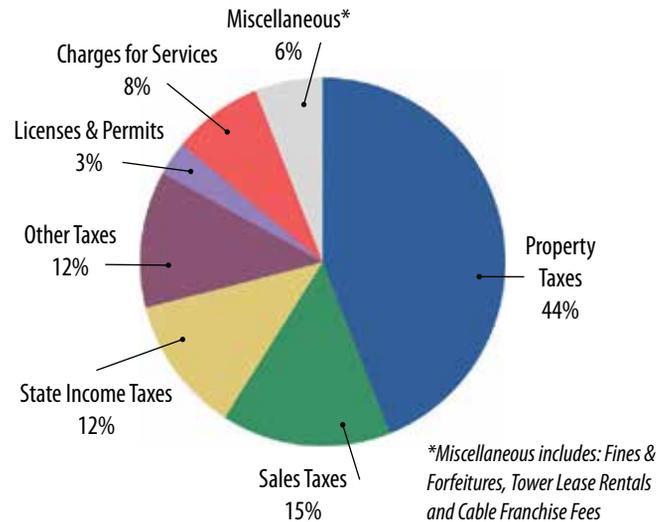
Q: *Where does the Village get its money to provide services to residents and businesses?*

A: The Village's operations are primarily funded through a combination of taxes and fees. For fiscal year 2023, the Village's General Fund had operating revenues of \$12.5 million. The chart at right (*Figure 1*) shows how multiple general fund operating revenue sources combine to fund Village services.

Q: *My annual property taxes are almost \$12,000. Where do the taxes go?*

A: Currently, only 17% of your property taxes goes to the Village of Flossmoor. This means that for every \$1,000 on a tax bill, the Village receives \$170. The rest of the funds go to other local taxing bodies, including the school districts, park district, library and Cook County.

Figure 1: General Fund Operating Revenues



Q: *I notice quite a bit of street construction and sidewalk replacement. Do my property taxes pay for this work?*

A: Property taxes are a major source of funding for our operations and these projects. The Village of Flossmoor obtained a General Obligation Bond through a referendum that residents voted for in November 2020. The G.O. Bond is a funding mechanism repaid by property taxes; this bond covers street rehabilitation and sidewalk replacement, as well as storm water improvements to the Flossmoor Road viaduct and the area upstream that contributes to significant downtown flooding. The Village also uses grants to fund infrastructure projects. For example, the recent Berry Lane Drainage Improvement Project garnered \$2.2 million in federal, state and regional grants.

Learn more at www.flossmoor.org/580/Property-Tax-QA.

Note to taxpayers: Properties in Rich & Bloom townships were reassessed this fall 2023. This reassessment will affect the second installment of your tax bill in 2024. The amount by which your taxes might increase or decrease is dependent upon the rise or fall of all the other properties' assessed values included in the levy. For more information on how your property is assessed, visit the Cook County Assessor's website: cookcountyassessor.com/how-residential-property-valued-0.

commission corner

Thank You, Flossmoor Fest Sponsors!

We hope you were able to join us for Flossmoor Fest 2023! Thank you to all who made this community celebration possible, including our fest sponsors:

Master of Ceremonies

U. of Chicago Medicine

Main Stage

- Comcast
- Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery
- Governors State U.
- Kluger Furs
- Law Offices of Kathleen Field Orr
- Leland Grove Law
- Lincolnway Property Management
- Meijer
- Prairie State College
- State Representative Will Davis
- Sterling Eye Care

Entertainment

- AT&T
- Bank Financial
- Bloom Township
- The Center for Dental Excellence
- ComEd
- Drew Mormann State Farm
- Integrity Orthopedics
- Marian Catholic H.S.
- Mayor Michelle Nelson
- Mike Fernandez State Farm
- MLC Properties & Management
- Nicor Gas
- Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo
- Robin for Leadership

Family Fun

- Boyd & Janice Jarrell
- Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl
- Cutters for Men

- Deborah Okleshen of Baird & Warner
- Edward Jones – Patrick Zamkin, Financial Advisor
- Every Tooth Counts
- Flossmoor Family Automotive Repair
- Gina LoGalbo & Joe Nordman
- Henry & Sharon Lorsch
- James B. Wilder
- John F. Flanagan
- Keller Williams Preferred
- Ken & Mary Gehrling
- Kevin & Bridget Wachtel
- Ozinga Brothers
- Stanley & LaWanda Harris
- State Representative Anthony DeLuca
- Sunrise Health Foods
- Sunrise Senior Living of Flossmoor
- Tony Figueroa & Family

Friends of the Fest

- Aid for Women
- Bernard & Marcia Heilicser
- The Bistro on Sterling
- Cork Gaming & Wine Bar
- Dr. Evonne Blakey
- Homewood Dental Studio
- Jerry & Connie Lambert
- John Yast
- Patrick & Sally Zamkin
- Semik Family

In-Kind Donations

- Homewood Disposal
- Homewood-Flossmoor Park District



Sculpture Tour Success

The Flossmoor Art Commission hosted a successful Sculpture Tour on Sept. 27 that wound around the downtown area and through Leavitt Park. The event drew people of all ages, including these children who enjoyed interacting with Mark Lundeen's *Secret Garden* near the Flossmoor Public Library.

Recyclepalooza '23

Traffic at this year's Recyclepalooza was up nearly 100 cars from last year! In addition to loads of sporting goods, apparel and electronics, together our community saved the following from landfills:



17 Bicycles



31 American Flags



93 lbs. of Denim



329 Trophies



657 Bread Tags

Village of Flossmoor

2800 Flossmoor Road
Flossmoor, IL 60422

flossmoor.org • [@FlossmoorIL](https://www.facebook.com/FlossmoorIL)

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor Michelle Nelson

Hello, neighbors!

The holidays are here, and Flossmoor has a great series of events to help us Celebrate the Season, starting with our annual tree lighting and Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25. You are also invited to join us in Flossmoor Park for our annual nightly community menorah lighting during Hanukkah from Dec. 7-15 and for the lighting of our community kinara for the

seven nights of Kwanzaa from Dec. 26-Jan. 1. These are special opportunities for us to come together to celebrate and learn about varying beliefs and cultures. While the holiday season is typically filled with joy and hope, it may be difficult for some, and I'm appreciative that our Flossmoor Public Library will host an online program on Wednesday, Dec. 6, about surviving the holidays.

Economic development continues to be a major focus in Flossmoor. This past year our Village was featured in a national business publication and several regional publications as an appealing community for business growth. We also identified additional incentives that can be used to attract development of our commercial areas. We are working with a consultant who gathered our trade area data to be used for retail recruitment (read more on page 9). The data is available under "Retail Recruitment" on our website. The consultant also manages a recruitment list of more than 40 prospects in entertainment, retail and dining. If you would like to help us grow the list, please email your suggestions to info@flossmoor.org. Also, thank you to everyone who

responded to my requests to let Trader Joe's know of our interest in having a store in Flossmoor. The company is still considering our location, so please continue to make that request at TraderJoes.com.

Flossmoor will turn 100 years old in 2024! Thanks to the combined efforts of all of our departments, residents and supporters throughout the years, we have a lot of history to celebrate and a promising future to look forward to. The Foundation for the Preservation of Flossmoor History will be working with the Village to highlight our beautiful architecture and residents. We will also celebrate this historic occasion at events throughout the year.

Collaborative efforts have been the key to our success these 100 years. This fall our Public Works Department teamed up with the Green Commission, residents and friends to plant nearly 80 additional parkway trees. Future generations will be the beneficiaries of efforts such as this. Please be on the lookout for ways to get involved during the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Jan. 15. The community that works together, grows together!

In the spirit of the season of gratitude, thank you to residents who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to welcome new neighbors, host block parties, coach or mentor our youth, donate to local charities, and feed, clothe and house those in need. As 2024 approaches, I hope to see you at our ice rinks, volunteering at events, and supporting local businesses and restaurants. I'm looking forward to the many opportunities to enjoy life together in this beautiful community that we all call home.

Happy holidays to you and your families. May you experience endless joy as you celebrate the season in Flossmoor (or wherever you may roam)!

— Yours truly, Mayor Nelson