

FLOSSMOOR

news

VOLUME 23 \ NUMBER 3 \ FALL 2013



FLOSSMOOR fest

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7, 2013**

11:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**DOWNTOWN FLOSSMOOR
& FLOSSMOOR PARK**

See schedule of events on page 8!

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Village OFFICIALS

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

Village PHONE NUMBERS

Village Hall \ 798.2300
 Fire \ 798.3885
non-emergency
 Police \ 957.4500
non-emergency
 TDD \ 647.0179
 Public Works \ 957.4100
 Building Dept. \ 957.4101
 EMERGENCY ONLY \ 9.1.1
www.flossmoor.org

Village MEETINGS

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

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

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

Public Art Commission Meeting
 2nd Tuesday of the month
 at 7:00 p.m.

**Community Relations
 Commission Meeting**
 4th Tuesday of the
 month at 7:00 p.m.

Green Committee Meeting
 3rd Tuesday of the month
 at 7:00 p.m.

FLOSSMOOR NEWS

is published for residents and businesses in the Village. Please address comments to:

Office of the
 Village Manager
 c/o Flossmoor News
 2800 Flossmoor Road
 Flossmoor, IL 60422

To place an ad in
FLOSSMOOR NEWS
 please contact:

Eric Rechsteiner

THE TIMES
 MEDIA COMPANY
 708/891.0744

Eric.Rechsteiner@nwtimes.com

DATES to know

May 15

Lawn Sprinkling Ban in Effect! The use of sprinklers for watering lawns or turf areas is prohibited between 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. until September 15.

September 2

Village Hall Closed in Observance of Labor Day

FLOSSMOOR fest

September 7
 Flossmoor Fest

September 7

Flossmoor 5k Run/Walk
 7 a.m. Registration / Check-in • 8 a.m. Race time
 Details at www.hfparks.com

September 13

Document Paper Shred - Free
 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Flossmoor Public Library Parking Lot
 Bring documents that contain personally identifiable information to be safely shredded.

September 15

Lawn Sprinkling Ban Ends

September 20

Dinner and Golf Fundraiser
 Homewood-Flossmoor
 High School Foundation
 Ravisloe Country Club
 Details at www.hfhighschool.org

September 28

Fall Family Camp Out
 4 p.m. – 9 a.m.
 Overnight camp-out in town. This year marks the 7th year of camping in Flossmoor Park. The camp out is complete with a cookout, campfire, family games, raffles, and movies. Bring a tent, sleeping bags, snacks and a flashlight. Don't have a tent? Contact Irons Oaks at 708-481-2330.

October 6

The Cancer Support Center
 Walk of Hope
 Irwin Park, Homewood
 The Walk of Hope, CSC biggest fundraiser, raises funds to provide programs for those whose lives have been touched by cancer, at no charge. Details at www.cancersupportcenter.org

October 9

Resident Meet and Greet Social
 6:30 p.m. Flossmoor Station
 Restaurant and Brewery. RSVP required, details on page 5. Hosted by the Community Relations Commission.

October 14

Village Hall is Closed

October 18

Last Day of the Farmers Market

October 19

Electronic Recycling - FREE
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Parker Jr. High School Parking Lot
 Enter off of Flossmoor Road
 Hosted by the HF Green Team



October 31

Halloween Trick or Treat Hours
 3 – 7 p.m.

October 31

Children's Halloween Party 7 p.m.
 Parker Jr. High School Gymnasium

November 28 & 29

Village Hall Closed for Thanksgiving

December 7

Winterfest – Downtown Flossmoor



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MAYOR'S *message*

Message from Mayor Paul Braun



PAUL BRAUN
Mayor of Floss

I hope that you and your family are well and looking forward to the fall season in Flossmoor. As the Village Board, staff, and I focus on maintaining a high quality of life for our residents, fostering a healthy business community is an important goal of our Village Board. Although the shovel is not yet in the ground on the Meijer project, rest assured that this project continues to move forward. We anticipate that Meijer will be requesting final plan approval this fall, and that construction will start next spring. Meijer will be an excellent addition to Flossmoor and will be a very nice retail opportunity for residents.

The Village is also focused on other economic development matters including the vitality of our existing business corridors on Vollmer Road and the central downtown area. Change is never easy, and as we learned of recent business turnover, we discussed our concerns with two major landlords. The Village remains focused on providing support to businesses including review of merchant and customer parking in the central downtown area and making changes as needed. The Village continues to partner with the Flossmoor Business Association so as to cross promote businesses and to maintain an open dialogue between the Village and our businesses. The Village's community events such as the Farmers Market, Flossmoor Fest and Winterfest, are some of the ways in which we generate activity among the

business community and residents.

We are very pleased to welcome expanding as well as new businesses in the downtown area including Express Yourself Salon, Sweet Annie's/Drew's Coffee Shop, Dessertitudes, and Angelo's Fresh Market. Please be sure to check them out!

The Village Board and I are receptive to your thoughts and ideas regarding our local businesses. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

As always, thank you so much for your concern for our community. We look forward to seeing you around town and at Flossmoor Fest on September 7th!



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Electric Aggregation Update

Attention residents, the Flossmoor Electric Aggregation Program is still available to all Flossmoor residents and eligible small businesses. The program's fixed rate of 4.85 cents per kWh is available until July 2014. During the first year of the program, the average resident saw approximately \$270 in savings. If you are interested in participating in the program, it is not too late. Residents may contact FirstEnergy Solutions at 888.651.5200 to sign up for the Flossmoor rate.



Water Main Project Begins

The eight-year water main improvement project has begun. This summer, the Village Board awarded the construction of Phase 1A to M&J Underground of Monee, IL. The project will replace 8,450 linear feet of the old water main with new 8" PVC water main, abandoning the existing old 4" and 6" water mains, making new main connections, installing new water services for 134 houses and new fire hydrants. Streets impacted by Phase 1A construction are:

- Bob O' Link Avenue
- Golfview and Robertson Lane, Mast Court
- Brassie Avenue (South of DunDonald Road)
- Bunker Avenue
- First and Second Private Road

Once Phase 1A project is underway and construction started, the Village will begin preparation for the Phase 1B project.

Flood Risk and Insurance Facts

Many property owners do not know the basics about flooding or flood insurance. To make informed decisions, residents and business owners need a solid understanding of their flood risk and how flood insurance can help. The following are important facts and figures to share with property owners so that they better understand the risk of flooding, its impact, and how flood insurance can help reduce the financial impact of flooding. Federal disaster assistance is usually provided in the form of a loan that must be paid back with interest along with any existing mortgage. Flood losses in the United States averaged \$2.9 billion per year for the last decade. Nearly 75 percent of all federally declared disasters over the past five years involved flooding. Property owners, renters, and business owners can purchase flood insurance on their building and contents through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It typically takes 30 days after the purchase of flood insurance for the policy to take effect. The average premium is around \$640 a year; the average claim in the past five years was more than \$35,000. More than 20 percent of all flood claims come from areas mapped outside high-risk flood zones. For flood insurance and flood risk information, visit FloodSmart.gov/facts.

Cancer Support Center's Walk of Hope

Be a part of the Cancer Support Center (CSC) biggest fundraiser of the year to celebrate life and healing. On Sunday October 6, join CSC and over 1,200 community members in reminding those diagnosed with cancer that they do not walk alone at their annual Walk of Hope at Irwin Park, 18120 Highland Avenue, Homewood. The Walk of Hope raises funds to provide programs for those whose lives have been touched by cancer, at no charge. Start building your team today! The pledge goal per walker is \$100.

Please register online at www.cancersupportcenter.org or call the Walk hotline at 708.365.1201 for more information. Registration fees include: Individuals (aged 15 and up) \$25; Children (aged 5 to 14) \$15; Kids under 5 are FREE! No pets, please!



Students Showcase New Sculpture

In May, the Flossmoor Public Art Commission held an unveiling ceremony for the Homewood-Flossmoor High School 3D Studio Art students. The students along with their art teacher, Greg Petecki designed and created Bell Tower. Bell Tower, a 14-foot wooden sculpture will be on display in front of the Flossmoor Public Library for the next three years, as a part of the Flossmoor Public Art Program. The Commission would like to thank the community for their continued support of the Arts in Flossmoor.

Looking for Helping Hands

Volunteers anyone? The Community Relations Commission is interested in starting a volunteer bank in Flossmoor. Please contact Kimberly Richardson at krichardson@flossmoor.org for information regarding your organization seeking volunteer help, the type of assistance needed and qualifications of volunteers. Are you interested in joining a Flossmoor volunteer team? Please send your name and information to Kimberly. Our intent is to match volunteers in our area with organizations in need of an extra hand. A win/win for everyone!

The Community Relations Commissioners of Flossmoor would like to remind you of a few neighborly items:

Have a Fall Block Party!

It is not too late to host a fall block party. How about a chili cook-off or pumpkin decorating? Gather your neighbors together before the weather turns cold. All residents received information about how to get a block party started in their neighborhood in their water bills this summer. Block party applications are also available on the Flossmoor Village website: www.flossmoor.org.

Visit us at Flossmoor Fest! This year the Community Relations Commission will host its own BLOCK PARTY at Flossmoor Fest. Come visit our booth for a special ice cream treat (ice cream socials are a great way to host a BLOCK PARTY!) and you will also receive a special Flossmoor Fest giveaway. We will have a suggestion box available for comments, suggestions and ideas that residents of Flossmoor have to make our community even a better place to live.

Mix and Mingle with your Neighbors

The Community Relations Commission will host its annual Meet and Greet at the Flossmoor Station and Brewery on Wednesday, October 9th at 6:30 p.m. This short, informational gathering will feature some of the Flossmoor Station's best food and include a question and answer session for all new residents. Please extend this invite to any new neighbors in the area. Please contact Kimberly Richardson at krichardson@flossmoor.org or 708.335.5411 to RSVP for this special event.

Sign up for Emergency Alerts

CodeRED is Flossmoor's emergency notification system, which allows the Village to quickly send pre-recorded phone messages to targeted areas or the entire Village, in the event of an emergency situation. CodeRED can send thousands of alerts in minutes and can also track calls so the Village knows if a call was received, went to voice mail, or was not received, and then resend to individuals who were not reached with the first call. No one should automatically assume your phone number is included. If your phone number is not in the database, you will not be called. All residents should register, as well as all businesses who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cell phone or VoIP phone as their primary number.

Residents can have the system include your cell phone, work phone or other alternate number, even if it's outside of the local 708 area code, plus e-mail and text information, so that you are sure to be notified when a CodeRED alert is activated in the area of your home or business. CodeRED allows geographically based delivery, which means street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to log onto the village's website www.flossmoor.org, click on "CodeRED", and provide their contact information. The data will only be used for emergency notification purposes.

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Update on Foreclosures in Flossmoor

Since the turn in the housing market, residents are more concerned than ever about real estate – namely foreclosures, vacancies and property maintenance. At the root of all of these concerns is the impact of the housing market on our property values. The media has a lot to say about the housing market, but understanding the statistics and what they mean can be confusing. For that reason, Flossmoor has tracked the number of foreclosure filings and more recently, the number of foreclosure sales in our community.

Many people ask Village officials “how many foreclosures are in Flossmoor?” The answer begins with understanding what a foreclosure is and what statistics are measured and reported with regard to foreclosure data. The most frequently utilized measure of foreclosure activity is the foreclosure filing. A filing is when a formal legal notice is provided to a property owner and recorded against the specific piece of property by the County Recorder of Deeds. For reference, there are a little more than 3500 residences in Flossmoor. The residential foreclosure filing count for the last six calendar years is as follows:

- 2007 – 122
- 2008 – 106
- 2009 – 80
- 2010 – 102
- 2011 – 85
- 2012 – 92

First quarter 2013 – 26*

*Extrapolating this figure for a full-year’s worth of statistics would be premature. There have been previous years when based on the first quarter data, it would appear that there would be more filings by the end of the year; yet, year-end data does not support that fact. Additional updates on foreclosure statistics will be provided later in the year.

Does a property ever experience multiple foreclosure filings? The answer is yes. We have found that a single property can be the subject of repeat filings without there having been a change in ownership. As a result we only count the first filing in order to get an accurate count of the number of properties in the foreclosure process. A property can only be foreclosed upon once by the current owner.

Does every foreclosure filing result in a foreclosed property? Simply put, no. In many cases, the homeowner is able to catch up on the delinquencies, renegotiate the loan or otherwise resolve the problem and retain ownership.

A property is considered foreclosed when the mortgagor is awarded title to the property, most commonly through a judicial sale. Only in the last couple of years, this data has become easier to track. Here is the data for the number of foreclosed properties:

- 2011 – 27
- 2012 – 43

A common image of the foreclosure crisis is numerous vacant bank owned homes. While this may be true in some communities, our research suggests that the issue of bank owned homes may not be as severe in Flossmoor as one might think. Our research shows that of the 27 properties foreclosed in 2011, only 4 remain in bank ownership today. The remaining parcels have been sold to private parties and several have been subsequently resold after rehabilitation. Of the 43 properties foreclosed in 2012, 15 remain in bank ownership.

Common misperceptions of bank owned properties are that no one is maintaining the properties and no one is paying the taxes. In fact, that is not true. Banks are required to maintain the property and pay the taxes. Flossmoor’s experience with bank owned properties are that they have responsive property management companies who maintain the landscaping

and attend to repairs. Our most significant property maintenance struggles occur just before or immediately following a foreclosure filing when a homeowner no longer had the financial ability to keep up the home.

There are success stories coming out of the foreclosure market. For just one example, in February 2011 a home in the 800 block of Ash was foreclosed upon and title was awarded to the bank. In November, of the same year, the property was sold by the bank to a private investor for \$105,000. The investor renovated the property and in May 2012 sold the property to its current owner-occupant for \$225,000.

Village officials also hear, “I see so many for sale signs! Is anyone selling their home?” The Village also monitors this data. The average sale price for the first half of 2013 is \$206,391. While the average home sale is below the peak of the real estate market a few years ago which is disappointing, it is encouraging that homes are selling more quickly. The average time on the market is 198 days versus 228 days in 2010. Do we have more homes on the market today than 2006 at the peak of the real estate market? In August 2006, Flossmoor had 128 homes on the market. At the end of May 2013, we had 123 homes on the market. Of those 123 homes, 31 were under contract.

The Village Board receives semi-annual reports on foreclosure data. If you are interested in learning more including a comparison of Flossmoor statistics to other communities, read more at flossmoor.org.

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FLOSSMOOR *fest*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2013

11:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN FLOSSMOOR & FLOSSMOOR PARK

Event Schedule

(Entertainment and times subject to change)

Downtown Activities

Downtown Flossmoor Main Stage Schedule

- 11:30 a.m. Mayor's Welcome & Homewood-Flossmoor Viking Band Performance (Opening Ceremony)
- 12:00 p.m. Western Avenue Children's Choir
- 12:30 p.m. Infant Jesus of Prague School Children's Choir
- 1:00 p.m. Flossmoor Hills Children's Choir
- 1:30 p.m. Heather Hill Children's Choir
- 2:00 p.m. Serena Hills Children's Choir
- 2:30 p.m. Parker Jr. High Children's Choir
- 3:00 p.m. H-F Inspirational Voices
- 5:00 p.m. Staff Infection
- 6:45 p.m. Walk-Ins
- 8:30 p.m. Euphony Band

Booths

- Public Art Commission - Caricature Artist at booth (\$10 donation to the Flossmoor Public Art Program)
- Community Relations Commission - Block Party themed booth
- Flossmoor Service League - Bean Bag Toss Contest

Flossmoor Park Activities

Flossmoor Park Children's Stage Schedule

- 12:15 p.m. A Zoo to You - Animal show
- 1:30 p.m. Mini Trivia Blitz
- 4:00 p.m. David Seebach's Wonder of Magic

Flossmoor Tennis Courts

Stunt Shows

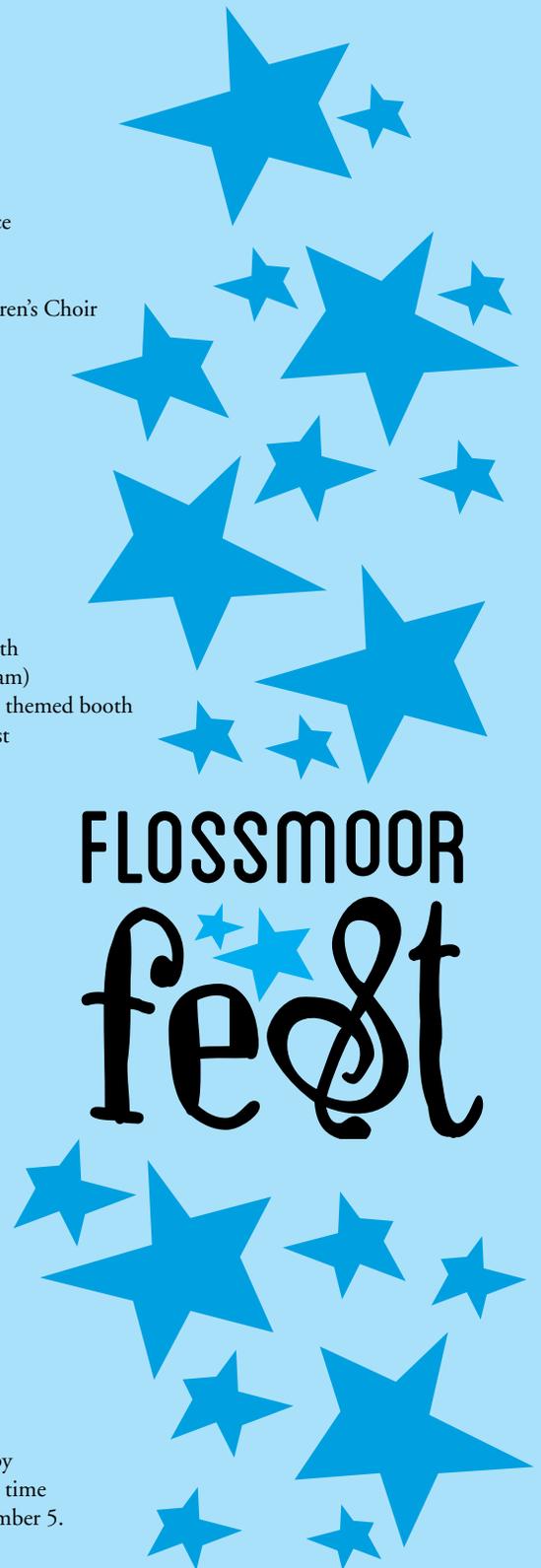
- 2:45 p.m. Matt Wilhelm Bike Stunt

Booths And Activities (12-5 P.M.)

- Pony Rides
- Crafts
- Inflatables
- Kiddie Express Train
- Balloon Artist (12 - 2 p.m.)
- Face Painting (2:30 - 4:30 p.m.)

Flossmoor 5k Walk/ Run

- Sponsored by the HF Racquet Club and Conroy Orthopaedics and Sports Physical Therapy
- 7:00 a.m. Registration/ Check-in, 8:00 a.m. Race time
- Pre-registration ends at noon on Thursday, September 5.
- Register online at hfracquetandfitness.com





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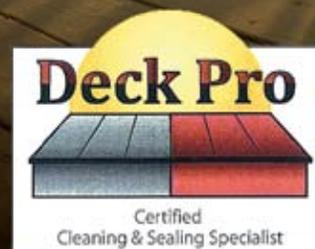
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FLOSSMOOR fest

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Green Committee Encourage Residents to Bike to the Fest

The Flossmoor Green Committee is hosting a Bike Bonanza at this year's Fest. A free bike corral, prizes and tons of exciting information about bike safety and repair, and great places to ride will be located in Flossmoor Park for all children and adults. Our goal is to set a record for the number of people that ride their bike to Flossmoor Fest and provide bike services for any interested attendees. Stay tuned for more details! Get those bikes out and join the fun.



Lasagna Garden Is Going Strong

The lasagna garden at Parker Jr. High School is going strong. The Committee added another garden at the Flossmoor Sculpture park.

Zero Heroes: Larry Kane

The Village of Flossmoor Green Committee Zero Waste Campaign is beginning to spread throughout our community. This column over the next year will be dedicated to people and places in our community making a difference and taking steps to reduce waste. We understand this is a large feat, but let's find out how these special people and places in our community are getting started.

One such Zero Hero is Larry Kane. Purchasing the Flossmoor Aveda concept salon was a dream come true for Larry, owner of Jonathan Kane Salon & Spa. Together with the help of a supportive staff, the Aveda Company, clients, and TerraCycle (a highly awarded upcycling and recycling company), Larry is making huge strides to reduce waste. It started simply with replacing styrofoam coffee cups with glassware and selecting to use carafes for coffee and glass jars for water. A year later, he conducted a waste audit to calculate the amount of trash he was throwing out and found that most of the salon trash could be recycled or reused with the right recycling methods. With the changes Larry has made, he is able to save money and reduce waste and continue to provide his customers with high quality service.



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Girls on the Run Teams Support Recycling

Girls on the Run Teams at Serena Hills and Western Avenue Schools participated in spring service projects to reduce waste. The Serena Hills team started by educating students and staff about better ways to pack a lunch and snacks to school. By choosing to use reusable drink containers, napkins and repurposed plastic containers for snacks; garbage is instantly reduced. At Western Avenue School, students focused on the ballpark outside their school. Two recycling containers were added next to garbage cans along with signage educating the public on what items can be recycled (plastic bottles, aluminum cans, clean cardboard, and paper – NO FOOD!) These simple steps can make a difference in reducing waste in our community.

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What is clinical neuropsychology, and how might it benefit your family?

Clinical neuropsychology, a specialized form of clinical psychology, examines over several hours the complex relationships among an individual's thinking abilities (cognition), emotional state(s), and behaviors in order to diagnose mental disorders, and to plan treatment/ services related to mental disorders [e.g., diagnosing ADHD or Alzheimer's disease; supporting the creation of student IEP's; determining decision-making capacity ("competency") in elderly adults].

Upcoming Presentations by Dr. Kazmierczak

Please consider attending one of the following presentations about clinical neuropsychology.

They are free, do not require registration, and do not create any obligation. Please note that attending a presentation does not *per se* create a doctor-patient relationship.

Neuropsychology for Elderly Adults

(Presentation is from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

August 22nd Irwin Community Center
18120 Highland Avenue, Homewood, IL

Neuropsychology for Children/Adolescents

(Presentations are from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

September 26th Comfort Inn Orland Park
October 3rd Comfort Inn Orland Park

Irwin Community Center:
18120 Highland Avenue, Homewood, IL

Flossmoor Employees give Back to Local Causes



Employees Fight Against Cancer

Village of Flossmoor and Flossmoor Public Library employees took part in Homewood-Flossmoor's Relay for Life on June 8 and 9, walking several laps around the Homewood-Flossmoor High School football field and raising more than \$2,800 for the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. Some employees even walked throughout the wee hours of the morning as Relay for Life lasts throughout the night to signify that cancer never sleeps. Employees taking part in Relay for Life were: Clarence Armstrong, Carin Booth, Barb Donahue, Sue Danaher, AJ Hinton, Dawn Lencioni, Rocky Murphy, Kimberly Richardson, Linda VanBeveren, and Sally Zamkin.

"The Village of Flossmoor was a big part of the success of the 2013 Relay for Life. The Village came on board raising funds for those in need, and was well represented by walkers at the event who walked through the night," said American Cancer Society Community Representative Jacquelyn Koch. "The Village staff and their family and friends did an amazing job. Thank you for helping the American Cancer Society."



Police Support the Special Olympics

In June, The Flossmoor Police Department participated in the Illinois Torch Run to support Special Olympics. Members of the Department set off with the Special Olympics Flame of Hope en route to meet runners from other police departments as part of the Illinois Special Olympics Torch Run. The torch then continued to other local departments before ending up in Chicago.

The Torch Run serves as a fundraiser for the Special Olympics with the proceeds going toward the cost of sending athletes to the Special Olympics games. Police departments have a unique relationship with the Special Olympics. They are considered to be the guardians of the torch, which is also called the 'Flame of Hope.'

Since 1986, law enforcement in Illinois, including Flossmoor, has proudly carried the torch and dedicated itself to the goals of continually increasing both awareness and funds for Special Olympics athletes statewide.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest fundraising arm for more than 22,000 Special Olympics athletes and families and provides them an opportunity to compete in sporting events throughout the state all year round. It was through law enforcement's efforts that we have grown from raising \$450,000 thirteen years ago to more than \$2.3 million last year.



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