

TRIB
local



Finding Dr. Right

Picking the right pediatrician in Homewood-Flossmoor

page 8



JAZZ IT UP

WHEN: 7 p.m. May 3

WHERE: Good Life Cafe, 2057 Ridge Road, Homewood

Each Thursday, this downtown Homewood restaurant, which opened in 2011, hosts a jazz evening starring the Chicago Jazz Posse featuring Chris Ussery on piano and Eugene Vineyard on saxophone. For more information, contact Good Life Cafe, 708-960-0418.



MUSIC

INTRO TO POTTERY

WHEN: 1 p.m. May 6

WHERE: Village Artists, 1957 Ridge Road, Homewood

Stephanie Fine will lead a course teaching children how to build pieces made of clay at this nonprofit dedicated to giving kids and adults a place to exercise their artistic talents. Designed for kids ages 5 to 8, the program costs \$60 for instruction and materials. For more details, call Village Artists, 708-798-4774.

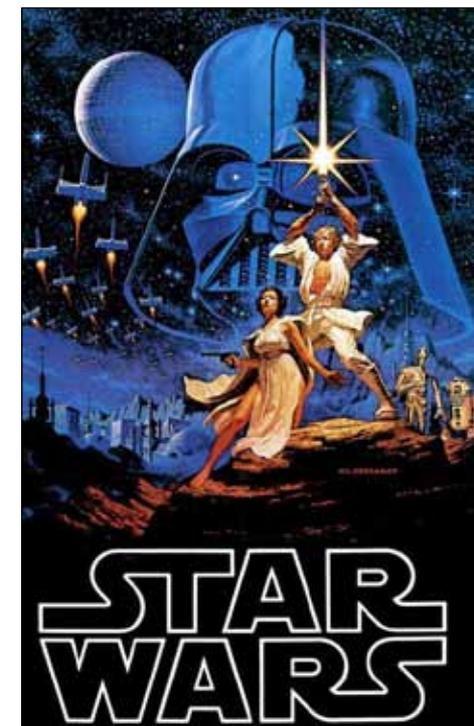
ART

FAMILY

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU ON STAR WARS DAY

WHEN: 6 p.m. May 4

WHERE: Irwin Park and Community Center, 18120 Highland Ave., Homewood
Celebrating May the Fourth (get it?), this is a celebration of George Lucas' iconic Star Wars film franchise. Activities including lightsaber tutorials, trivia, a costume contest and Star Wars-themed snacks will begin at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m., organizers will air "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope," the first film in the series, released in 1977. For more information, contact the Irwin Park and Community Center, 708-957-7275.



'MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING'

WHEN: 7 p.m. May 3-5

WHERE: Homewood-Flossmoor High School, 999 Kedzie Ave., Flossmoor
H-F High School continues its tradition of producing classic plays by putting on one of Shakespeare's most famous comedies. With an award-winning cast and crew, H-F Theatre produces more than five shows per year, recently performing "The Music Man," "Annie" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." For tickets and more information, call the high school, 708-799-3000.

redbox TOP H-F DVD RENTALS APRIL 1-7

Washington Park, Homewood: Halsted and Maple Ave.

- 1) The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
- 2) Immortals
- 3) Tower Heist

183rd and Halsted

- 1) The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
- 2) Immortals
- 3) Jack and Jill

Cherry Creek Shopping Center: 183rd and Governors Highway

- 1) The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
- 2) Tower Heist
- 3) Immortals



Coming up: H-F best golf courses

Ready to tee it up? Triblocal has the area's best guide to private, semi-private and public golf courses.

Spring Cleaning!

H-F residents, it's time to shake off the dust and clean out your closets. Share your best spring cleaning tips and tricks with us. Email them to triblocaltips@triblocal.com



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FIVE QUESTIONS WITH...

Anne Colton, documentary filmmaker

By Suzanne Flynn

SOUTH SUBURBAN NEWS SERVICE

Q: How has filmmaking changed with the explosive growth of the available delivery systems for information?

In the 1990s, producing videos was expensive and only my big clients could afford it.

Now, equipment is less expensive and YouTube has changed everything. It's given us an amazing way to deliver information.

When I uploaded my first video to YouTube, I had 500 hits within three weeks. To get 500 people to see my film within that time period before YouTube never happened.

Q: What challenges does such immediacy of access now present to filmmakers?

Getting noticed. The best thing about YouTube is that anyone can make a film and upload it.

The worst thing is that anyone can make a film and upload it. It's hard to filter through what is good and what is bad.

Q: What does YouTube mean specifically to documentary filmmakers



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE COLTON

such as yourself?

You can reach more people than ever before. When most people in my generation think of documentaries, they think of Public Television — boring!

Now, we can break out of that stigma with access to all different kinds of

filmmakers and increased viewership.

Q: What about critics and competition having the ability to see your work so easily?

Criticism is what makes you stronger. It makes me happy if 100 people love my film, but that's not going to

About Anne Colton

HOMETOWN: Homewood

OCCUPATION: Documentary filmmaker and partner of Studio 604, www.studio-604.net

EDUCATION: Graduate of Glenbard West High School, 1982; Coursework at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Columbia College, Chicago

make me a better filmmaker. Documentaries tell a story.

As a filmmaker, I shape the story and ask the right kinds of questions to illicit the right response to carry the story.

Critics make me look at my story differently and give me a different perspective, which I love.

Q: Where will the future take us?

I think the future will be delivering films to mobile devices, which will open a whole new world.

Documentaries are not only art, but also messaging. We're addressing getting those messages to mobile devices. With technology anything can happen. We're only limited by our imagination.

COMMUNITY NOTES

H-F campaign contributions

The following campaign contributions were recorded in the Homewood-Flossmoor area from April 9-15:

- North Suburban Teachers Union COPE received a \$2,112.60 transfer from Illinois Federation of Teachers, 500 Oakmont Lane, in Westmont. North Suburban Teachers Union supports the interests of its members.

- Patrick J. King, of 475 N. Cass Ave., Unit 107, in Westmont, made a \$200 contribution to IUOE Local 399 Political Education Fund. IUOE Local 399 Political Education Fund supports candidates for state and local offices.

- Illinois Federation of Teachers COPE, of 500 Oakmont Lane, in Westmont, made a

\$25,000 transfer to Democratic Majority. Illinois Federation of Teachers COPE supports candidates for public office.

Memorial fishing derby planned at Dolphin Lake

The McDowell family and Henry's Sports, Bait and Marine are sponsoring the free McDowell Memorial Fishing Derby from 8-11:30 a.m. April 28 at Dolphin Lake, located at the intersection of 183rd Street and Governors Highway, in Homewood.

Anglers of all ages are welcome and eligible for the biggest fish prize and other raffles. All children will also be eligible for the bike raffle.

Kids age 15 and under are free, and ages

16 and older will need an Illinois fishing license and a Dolphin Lake fishing permit, which will allow participation in the fall derby as well.

Permits are available at the Goldberg Center and Irwin Community Center for \$5 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents.

Call 708-957-0300 for more information.

Spring luncheon to benefit Infant Welfare Society

The Flossmoor Juniors Chapter of the Infant Welfare Society will host its annual spring luncheon at 10:30 a.m. April 27 at the Olympia Fields Country Club.

The luncheon will include boutique vendors, raffle prizes, baskets, food from a

French bakery and a gourmet luncheon.

After lunch, Barbara Rinella will present a book review of Paula McClain's bestselling novel, "The Paris Wife."

Tickets for the luncheon are \$50.

Guests who are unable to attend the luncheon can partake in shopping and coffee from 10:30 a.m. to noon for a suggested donation of \$10.

Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, a community-based health care provider for underinsured women and children.

For tickets or more information, call 708-704-6022.

The Olympia Fields Country Club is located at 2800 Country Club Drive, in Olympia Fields.

H-F seniors to compete in architecture contest



H-F HIGH SCHOOL PHOTO

H-F seniors (from left) Max Donkel, Michael Hurley and Irving Rodriguez stand by H-F High School's 3-D printer, where they made a replica of their skyscraper for the Chicago Architecture Today contest.

Team creates cutting-edge multipurpose building

By Peter J. Gallanis

SOUTH SUBURBAN NEWS SERVICE

Three H-F High School seniors have formed a team to compete in Chicago Architecture Today's Mock Firm Competition this spring.

Named "Team Corporate Renaissance," the team includes project manager Michael Hurley, of Homewood, lead architect Irving Rodriguez, of Glenwood, and lead engineer Max Donkel, of Flossmoor. The team will present its proposal to a select group of judges on May 4.

"We have developed a multipurpose building in downtown Detroit in order to fully encompass the assigned theme of revival and versatility," Hurley said. "The design is cutting-edge, utilizing a

spiral that wraps the complex hourglass structure of the building."

The students came together to work on the special project in the honors drafting class taught by applied academics teacher Nate Beebe.

"We wanted to take on a challenging real-world project that would give us experience for our future endeavors," Hurley said. "The architecture program at H-F gave us an awesome opportunity."

After graduating from H-F in June, the three will be headed in different directions. Hurley plans to attend Grinnell College in Iowa; Donkel will attend Penn State University to major in civil or electrical engineering; and Rodriguez plans to attend Stanford University in California to study engineering or pre-medicine.

SCHOOL MENUS APRIL 30-MAY 4

Homewood School District 153

Monday, April 30

Oven roasted chicken or turkey on wheat, baked french fries, cole slaw, apple wedge, dinner roll, milk

Tuesday, May 1

Turkey sub or turkey on wheat, tater tots, corn, juice, milk

Wednesday, May 2

Chicken sandwich or turkey on wheat, baked smiley potatoes, sliced pears, milk

Thursday, May 3

Hot dog or turkey on wheat, baked curly fries, diced peaches, milk

Friday, May 4

Cheese pizza or turkey on wheat, green beans, sliced oranges, milk

Marian Catholic High School

Monday, April 30

Chicken alfredo with fresh broccoli

Tuesday, May 1

Philly cheesesteak with onion rings

Wednesday, May 2

Fajita bar

Thursday, May 3

Orange chicken

Friday, May 4

Jumbo stuffed shells, garlic bread

Parker Junior High, Flossmoor

Monday, April 30

Menu A

Chicken nuggets, peas, 100 percent fruit juice, Munchable mix, barbecue sauce

Menu B

Whole-grain pasta with meat sauce, broccoli, peaches, pumpkin, bread

May 1-4 — to be announced

Homewood Christian Academy

Monday, April 30

Pizza sticks with marinara sauce, garden salad with fat-free Italian dressing, orange, milk

Tuesday, May 1

Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, roll, green beans, applesauce, milk

Wednesday, May 2

Chicken fajitas, soft tortillas, lettuce and salsa, cheese and sour cream, Spanish rice, corn, diced pears, milk

Thursday, May 3

Hamburger with cheese, bun, Doritos, corn on the cob with butter, sliced peaches, milk

Friday, May 4

Baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, mixed fruit, milk



FILE PHOTO

How to choose a pediatrician

With a little research H-F parents can find the right doctor

By Suzanne Flynn

SOUTH SUBURBAN NEWS SERVICE

Choosing a physician for a child is an important decision, one that will stay with the family for more than 18 years.

Within the first year of a child's life, parents will visit a doctor's office more than six times for well visits alone, and more if the child gets sick. While it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the number of choices, with a little research, parents should be able to find a provider they like and, more importantly, trust.

"Parents have to feel comfortable enough to build a relationship with their pediatrician," said Dr. Mark Roome, a Homewood-based pediatrician. "The pediatrician you choose should be friendly, kind, gentle and obviously like working with kids."

The pediatrician should also be board certified. This means the physician has graduated college, completed four years of medical school, has at least three years of on-the-job training — called a residency in pediatrics — and has also passed an exam issued by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Dr. Jennifer Shu, pediatrician and medical edi-

tor of healthychildren.org, the consumer website of the American Academy of Pediatrics, tells TribLocal if a pediatrician is not board certified, ask why.

"Having and maintaining a board certification demonstrates that they have ongoing education and are staying current on the knowledge required to be a pediatrician," she said.

Some families may choose to see a family practitioner instead of a pediatrician. Practitioners have all the same training and certification as a pediatrician; however, they see patients of all ages and do not limit their practice to children.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Dr. Mark Roome, a Homewood-based pediatrician.

It's best to start looking for a pediatrician during the second or third trimester of the pregnancy. "The first thing an expectant mother should do when looking for a pediatrician for their new baby is ask family and friends for referrals," Shu said.

Shu suggests asking people who have a parenting style that's admired, "because you'll want to

find a pediatrician who is not only well-trained in pediatrics, but also shares your own personal philosophy and style." In addition to family and friends, obstetricians, schools, day cares and hospitals are also great resources for recommendations.

There are many different types of physicians. If a physician has an "M.D." after his name that means he attended a traditional medical school.

If a physician has a "D.O." after his name, he is a graduate of an osteopathic medical school. In addition to traditional medical school, he has received an additional 300 to 500 hours in the study of hands-on manual medicine and the body's musculoskeletal system integrated into his medical curriculum.



Dr. Jennifer Shu, pediatrician and medical editor of healthychildren.org, the consumer website of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Regardless of the initials after a name, Roome explained that a good pediatrician will listen to parents' concerns, wants and needs, and be willing to work together with parents as a team with the child's best interest at heart.

"The parents' and pediatrician's personalities have to click," Shu said. "Opinions must be heard and questions answered. And this goes both ways; each side of the relationship has to be respectful towards each other."

Many pediatricians offer a free meet-and-greet appointment or "interview." It's during that interview that the parent learns about the physician's training, office hours and his personal style and views on child rearing.

If at any point the relationship with the pediatrician

is not a good fit, parents should discuss their concerns with the physician and staff. If the concerns are not being dealt with, do not hesitate to find a new doctor.

“The parents’ and pediatrician’s personalities have to click. Opinions must be heard and questions answered. And this goes both ways; each side of the relationship has to be respectful towards each other.”

— Dr. Jennifer Shu, pediatrician and medical editor of healthychildren.org



Questions to ask during the interview:

- Which insurance plan does the pediatrician accept?
- How does the practice handle payments, billing and laboratory charges?
- Will the doctor (or someone else in the practice) see the newborn in the hospital or will the first contact be an office visit?
- Does the doctor accept and answer questions by email?
- How are appointments handled for children who are sick? Is there a good chance the child will get to see his own doctor?

Sources: Dr. Mark Roome and Dr. Jennifer Shu

Pediatricians in H-F:

Child Life Center

19550 Governors Highway, Suite 2500
 Flossmoor
 708-799-7600

Homewood Pediatric Associates

19150 S. Kedzie Ave., Suite 100,
 Homewood
 708-335-3693
 Flossmoor
 708-799-7600

Ming-Te Lin, M.D.

3235 Vollmer Road, Suite 142
 Flossmoor
 708-957-7937

Moon Kim, M.D.

3235 Vollmer Road, Suite 103
 Flossmoor
 708-798-6860

Sources: AAP.org and healthgrades.com



HOT PROPERTY: 18906 Kings Road, Homewood

1-story updated ranch has gourmet kitchen

Constructed in 1962, this 1,884 square-foot ranch sits on 0.25 acres and includes a two-car garage. It is listed for \$144,500.

Highlights of the kitchen include stainless steel appliances, tile flooring and maple cabinetry lined with granite countertops. A breakfast area has a ceiling fan and a view of the spacious family room.

Situated next to the kitchen is the carpeted dining room with a chandelier and sliding-glass doors to the backyard.

Hardwood flooring lines the living room, which has decorative trim, exposed lighting and large windows overlooking the front yard.

The master bedroom features carpeted flooring, a ceiling fan and a pair of windows with decorative trim. This property is situated 2.5 miles east of the Homewood and Flossmoor Metra stations.

Listing agent: Susan Jenner, Baird & Warner, 708-829-1820, susan.jenner@bairdwarner.com

Beds: 3 **Baths:** 1.5

—Rob Piskac

Selling a home that stands out from the rest? Email hotproperties@blockshopper.com

BY THE NUMBERS

Highest for sale in Homewood

1. 2724 183rd St., Unit L, Homewood: **\$899,000**
2. 18238 Aida Court, Unit D, Homewood: **\$475,000**
3. 2211 Maple Road, Homewood: **\$389,900**
4. 2105 Maple Road, Homewood: **\$374,000**
5. 927 Elder Road, Homewood: **\$360,000**
6. 2235 Maple Road, Homewood: **\$299,750**
7. 18130 Rockwell Ave., Homewood: **\$295,000**
8. 18041 Stewart Ave., Homewood: **\$269,900**
9. 18111 Highland Ave., Homewood: **\$259,900**
10. 15 Riegel Oaks Lane, Homewood: **\$249,900**
11. 1718 187th St., Homewood: **\$245,000**
12. 3063 Hickory Road, Homewood: **\$239,900**
13. 17708 Cherrywood Lane, Homewood: **\$235,000**
14. 1469 Burr Oak Road, Homewood: **\$230,000**
15. 18469 Kedzie Ave., Homewood: **\$219,900**
16. 19127 Loomis Ave., Homewood: **\$217,900**
17. 17806 Turtle Creek Drive: **\$215,000**
18. 2818 Walnut Road, Homewood: **\$212,000**
19. 1700 Cedar Road, Homewood: **\$209,900**
20. 467 Holbrook Road, Homewood: **\$205,000**

Source: chicago.blockshopper.com

HOME SALES FOR MARCH 19-APRIL 4

Date	Address	Price	Buyer	Seller
April 4	1310 Brassie Ave., Flossmoor	\$420,000	Sasa Oroz, Dianne Oroz and John S. Irving	Karen E. Johnson and Lawrence A. Arbeiter
March 29	2635 Gordon Drive, Flossmoor	\$129,000	Lindsay Klauk	Marilynn L. Collins and John F. Collins
March 28	942 Bowling Green Drive, Homewood	\$165,000	Loretta Adams	Robert Moss
March 26	715 Park Drive, Flossmoor	\$535,000	Dana R. Dolan and Christopher M. Dolan	Augie O. Mimica, Ognjen Mimica and Renee A. Lafleur Minica
March 19	18631 Poplar Ave., Homewood	\$192,000	Michael Maddox	Kevin T Seidel and Kathryn M. Seidel
March 19	17903 Homewood Ave., Homewood	\$26,000	Clarke Forsythe and Karen Forsythe	Vision Investments Inc

MARKETWATCH: H-F

City	% for sale	Median listing price	Rate of foreclosure	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Chicago Heights	2.37%	\$61,000	50.25%	203	102
Country Club Hills	2.26%	\$110,000	46.63%	193	90
Flossmoor	4.15%	\$215,000	24.56%	114	28
Frankfort	2.47%	\$290,000	25.37%	335	85
Glenwood	2.57%	\$78,000	35.90%	78	28
Hazel Crest	1.85%	\$101,000	50.34%	145	73
Homewood	2.52%	\$134,000	32.69%	208	68
Mokena	1.67%	\$222,000	23.62%	326	77
Olympia Fields	3.95%	\$201,500	38.89%	54	21
Orland Park	2.30%	\$220,000	14.48%	525	76
Park Forest	3.15%	\$41,000	41.76%	273	114
Tinley Park	2.32%	\$176,000	20.77%	467	97

Source: Chicago.BlockShopper.com, Cook County Recorder of Deeds

POLICE & FIRE

POLICE BRIEFS

Senior citizens alerted to false-identity robberies

The Homewood Police Department would like to inform residents of theft scams that are targeting senior citizens in the area. Police report that thieves are using false identities to gain the confidence of homeowners in order to enter the victims' homes.

Offenders are using false identities and stories, such as new neighbor, utility worker, village employee or construction worker. In addition to false identities, the thieves are making up stories in order to gain access to the house or property, such

as installing a fence and need to check the property line; checking on the water meter or working on broken water main; cutting some trees or performing some service that may affect the property; or checking on work that was done for a neighbor.

The Homewood Police Department also reminds residents to always ask for identification from anyone that may want to enter your home.

Residents may also want to call the company or village that any such individual says they are working for to verify their employment. Residents may also call the Homewood Police Department at any time for assistance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

Address	Incident	Time, Date
183rd Street	EMS	2:11 a.m. April 2
West 140th Court and Cottage Grove	Brush fire	2:25 p.m. April 2
Gottschalk Avenue	EMS	3:26 p.m. April 2
Homewood Avenue	EMS	3:32 p.m. April 2
Maple Road	EMS	5:51 a.m. April 3

POLICE BLOTTER - FLOSSMOOR

Address	Incident	Time, Date
Vollmer Road	Traffic stop	2:57 a.m. Feb. 15
Governors Highway and Heather Hill Crescent	Traffic stop	4:07 p.m., March 29
Verne Lane	Stolen vehicle	11:01 p.m., March 29
Kedzie Avenue and Governors Highway	Personal injury accident	11:13 p.m., March 29
Dixie Highway and Terrace Road	Traffic stop	12:08 a.m., March 30
Lanark Street	Burglar alarm	2:07 a.m., March 30
Cambridge Avenue	Burglar alarm	5:22 a.m., March 30
Lanark Street	Burglar alarm	7:50 a.m., March 30
198th Street	Burglar alarm	7:56 a.m., March 30
Pheasant Court	Burglar alarm	7:58 a.m., March 30
196th Street	Alarm	8 a.m., March 30
Flossmoor Road and Berry Lane	Traffic stop	10:11 a.m., March 30
Western Avenue and Golfview Lane	Traffic stop	10:32 a.m., March 30
195th Street	Burglar alarm	10:47 a.m., March 30
Dixie Highway and Holbrook Road	Accident with property damage	11:40 a.m., March 30
189th Street	Drug offense	12:55 p.m., March 30
Troon Street	Suspicious person	2:42 p.m., March 30
Kedzie Avenue and Flossmoor Road	Traffic stop	4:35 p.m., March 30
Governors Highway	Traffic stop	5:01 p.m., March 30
195th Street	Burglar alarm	6:02 p.m., March 30
Perth Avenue and Brumley Drive	Incident involving juvenile	6:06 p.m., March 30
Western Avenue and Vollmer Road	Disabled vehicle	6:20 p.m., March 30
Elm Street	Parking problem	6:36 p.m., March 30
Flossmoor Road	Identity theft	12:37 a.m., March 31
Governors Highway and Flossmoor Road	Incident involving animal	1:27 a.m., March 31
Dartmouth Road	Burglary	1:28 a.m., March 31
Amery Court	Burglar alarm	6:37 a.m., March 31
Ashley Oaks Lane	Burglar alarm	8:59 a.m., March 31
Flossmoor Road and Harding Avenue	Driving complaint	9:04 a.m., March 31
Gianna Drive	Found property	11:05 a.m., March 31
Cummings Lane	Solicitation	11:35 a.m., March 31
Ash Street	Disturbance	2:29 p.m., March 31
Kedzie Avenue	EMS call	4:02 p.m., March 31
Sterling Avenue and Dundee Avenue	Driving complaint	5 p.m., March 31

Homewood Village Board unanimously passes budget

Sales tax revenues projected at \$4.1 million

By Peter J. Gallanis
SOUTH SUBURBAN NEWS SERVICE

The Homewood Village Board passed its 2012-13 budget by a unanimous vote at its April 10 village board meeting, and according to Village Manager Ralph DeWitt, the village is in good fiscal shape.

Homewood runs on a fiscal year budget from May 1 through April 30.

DeWitt told TribLocal that sales tax revenues are projected to be \$4.1 million in the 2012-13 fiscal year, a \$150,000 increase from last year's budget.

The village expects real estate taxes to bring in \$2.818 million, a \$232,000 reduction compared to last year. "This is due to property assessments," DeWitt said. "The bottom line is declining home values over the last four years."

Looking at the village finances overall, DeWitt said,

"Revenues have been relatively flat. We have a slight uptick in sales tax but that's offset by a reduction in real estate taxes and state income taxes." DeWitt added that according to numbers reviewed after the last census, the village hasn't experienced the growth that other Illinois cities have.



DeWitt

Illinois state income tax revenues are expected to total \$1.5 million, about \$80,000 less than in last year's budget. "Those are the biggies," DeWitt said, referencing sales tax, revenues and real estate taxes.

Telecommunications tax revenues are projected at \$899,000, a \$24,000 decrease from last year, due to the increasing trend of a number of residents dropping traditional land line services and switching to cellular.

On the debt side of the equation, DeWitt said, "We're pretty much a low-debt community." He said outside of pension issues, the village only has one major bond debt, a \$2.2 million bond taken out in 2010. "We're making payments on the bond so that's really our only major

debt." Since the village has been faithfully paying on the bond, "We're in a better debt position than last year," he said.

While the village is in relatively good financial shape, that doesn't mean there aren't challenges. DeWitt said although revenues are up about 2 percent from last year, expenses have increased about 3 percent, leaving a 1 percent gap — or in dollars, about \$200,000. "So our challenge will be to close that 1 percent," DeWitt said.

Talks are continuing, but ideas such as canceling the village's annual bike race have been floated.

Furthermore, if no solution can be found, the village does have a cash reserve fund, and DeWitt said the village can dip into those funds, if necessary, to close the budget gap.

On the business front, the village hasn't lost any significant businesses from its tax rolls, but the village does house a Kmart, and DeWitt said the situation will be monitored closely as Kmart has closed several locations in recent years.

Sears Holdings Corp., owner of Kmart, laid off 100 employees from its Hoffman Estates headquarters Feb. 16.

Village of Flossmoor to solicit bids for lower electric rates

By Peter J. Gallanis
SOUTH SUBURBAN NEWS SERVICE

Flossmoor voters passed a referendum on the March 20 primary election ballot that allows the village to seek lower electric rates for its residents.

By law, the village must hold two public hearings to present its plan to residents and allow them the opportunity to comment. Called the Flossmoor Electric Aggregation Governance Plan, the first hearing was held April 16; the second hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. May 7 at Village Hall.

Following the May 7 hearing, the village will solicit bids from suppliers who are licensed as alternative electric suppliers in Illinois. If favorable pricing does not exist, the village will not enter into an agreement and remain with its current energy supplier, ComEd. Kimberly Richardson said the earliest residents could see a reduction in their electric bills would be summer or fall of this year.

The state of Illinois amended deregulation legislation, allowing municipalities to aggregate their residential and small business accounts, and seek competitive bids

for energy. Under state law, voters must approve a referendum granting Flossmoor the authority to seek electric service bids for residents and small businesses under a single contract.

Village officials added if the village decides to purchase electricity from another supplier, residents still have the option to opt out and continue to purchase their electricity from ComEd.

Dean Armstrong, owner of the Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery and chairman of a grassroots organization called Flossmoor Residents for Lower Electric Rates said he was glad to see the referendum pass.

"Some of the other communities in Illinois voted [the referendum] down. Not only did we approve it, but by an 85 percent margin," Armstrong said. "We had a very dedicated group of people who devoted their time and money to get this thing done. I wish to congratulate them on a job well done."

"The savings for the community as a whole could be between \$600,000 to \$700,000 a year," Armstrong continued. "That's buying power; those monies can in turn be reinvested in the community."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLOSSMOOR RESIDENTS FOR LOWER ELECTRIC RATES
Flossmoor resident Torri Clark places a "Vote Yes" sign in her yard encouraging residents to vote in favor of Flossmoor's March 20 referendum that would allow the village to purchase electricity from a variety of bulk energy suppliers. According to village officials, electricity savings could be as much as 20 percent.

H-F youth hockey teams capture SSSL titles

By Brian Brown
SOUTH SUBURBAN NEWS SERVICE

The H-F Youth League captured a pair of titles in the South Suburban Hockey League as the program's Red team won the championship of the Squirt Division and the Black team was crowned winner of the Mite Division.

In the SSSL Mite playoffs, it was an all H-F final. H-F Black, coached by Tony Barracca and assisted by Bob Rice, Ron Grenick and Kristen Hill, posted a 7-2 victory in the championship game over H-F Red, coached by Sam Del Rio and assisted by Bill McCall, Sandesh Bilgi and Ed Hutton.

H-F Black was the top seed in the 10-team tournament and opened the playoffs with a 7-1 quarterfinal round victory over No. 8 seed St. Jude Team 1 before downing No. 5 seed Arctic Fury Team 2 in a 6-1 decision in the semifinals to reach the championship. H-F Black was the tournament's Cinderella, entering the field as the sixth seed before upsetting No. 3 seed Arctic Fury Team 3 5-0 in the quarterfinals and No. 2 seeded Arctic Fury Team 1 in the semifinals 4-3.

In the Squirt Division, H-F Red, the tournament's No. 2 seed, coached by Rich Glass and assisted by Bob Paris, Miguel Mancha and Kenny Morrow, blanked No. 1 Kankakee 3-0 in the championship to claim the SSSL crown. H-F Red earned its spot in the title round by outlasting No. 3 seeded Arctic Fury Team 3 in a 4-3 shootout decision during the semifinal

round after opening the tournament with a 3-0 quarterfinal win over No. 7 seed Arctic Fury Team 4.

H-F Black was the sixth seed in the Squirt Division, but was eliminated 5-1 in the quarterfinals by No. 3 Arctic Fury Team 3. The H-F Pirates were the ninth-seed in the tournament and defeated No. 8 St. Jude Team 2 5-0 in the opening round before falling 7-0 in the quarterfinals to Kankakee.

H-F teams also competed in the Pee-wee and Bantam divisions of the SSSL playoffs. In Pee-wee action, H-F Black made it to the semifinals before falling 4-0 to eventual champion Arctic Junior Fury Team 3, the top seed in the 12-team tournament. H-F Black, the fourth seed, opened the playoffs with a 3-0 win in the quarterfinals over No. 5 seeded Arctic Junior Fury Team 2. H-F Red was the sixth seed and defeated No. 11 St. Jude Team 1 in a 2-1 opening-round game before losing 4-3 in the quarterfinals to the third seed, Arctic Junior Fury Team 4. The H-F Pirates were the seventh seed in Pee-wee Division, and defeated No. 10 Arctic Junior Fury Team 5 by a 3-2 margin in the opening round before falling 4-2 to No. 2 seeded Kankakee in the quarterfinals.

In Bantams, H-F Red was the second seed in the seven-team tournament. It posted a 3-0 shutout over No. 7 St. Jude in the quarterfinals before being upset 5-4 in a shootout by No. 6 Arctic Fury Team 2 in the semifinals. H-F Black was the fifth seed but lost 3-2 in a shootout to No. 4 Arctic Fury Team 3 in the quarterfinals.



PHOTOS COURTESY HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR YOUTH HOCKEY
Homewood-Flossmoor Red celebrates after winning the Squirt Division title of the South Suburban Hockey League.



The Homewood-Flossmoor Black and Red teams celebrate on the ice after meeting one another in the championship round of the Mite Division playoffs in the South Suburban Hockey League.

YOUTH SPORTS NOTES

Homewood Area Small Fry team places 7th

Homewood Area Small Fry Basketball finished seventh at the 44th annual International Tournament held earlier this month at ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla. The Vikings posted a 2-3 mark at the tournament to finish the 2012 season with a 14-14 record.

Homewood opened the tournament April 9 with a 46-37 loss to Encantada, Puerto Rico, after leading by as many as

17 points in the second half. Ernst Coupet, Nick Perry and Keegan Mraz each scored seven points to lead the Vikings while Jesiah Jones pulled down six rebounds.

The Vikings rebounded the next day to earn their first victory at the international tournament with a 36-30 win over CIAPR.

Homewood Area closed the tournament on a positive note in the seventh-place game by defeating Harvey 59-28. The Vikings raced out to an 18-2 lead and cruised the rest of the way for the 31-point win. Nick Perry led all scorers with 18 points, including three 3-pointers, while

Jesiah Jones nearly had a double-double with nine points and seven rebounds. Ernst Coupet scored eight points to go along with six rebounds and three assists, and Maurice Commander scored six points while dishing out six assists and recording five steals.

Baseball, softball to hold opening day celebrations

The opening day of baseball and softball season for the Flossmoor Baseball and Softball leagues will be celebrated by a parade at 9 a.m. April 28. The parade

route is from Parker Junior High School, east down Flossmoor Road, and under the viaduct to Bronco Field, where an Opening Day ceremony will be held.

Players should arrive at the PJHS parking lot by 8 a.m. for the parade. Parents can line up along any part of the parade route and meet players at the ballpark for an Opening Day ceremony. Flossmoor Baseball and Softball is for boys and girls ages pre-K through age 18. For more information visit www.flossmoorbbsb.com.

—Brian Brown



New AD to take the helm at HFHS

Alec Anderson
to replace retiring
Joe Skowronski

By Dayna DeHaven
SOUTH SUBURBAN NEWS SERVICE

Homewood-Flossmoor High School will welcome Alec Anderson as its new director of athletics and activities on July 1.

Anderson, who brings more than 15 years of experience in athletic administration, was sought by the school based on his track record. Anderson looks forward to directing the HFHS athletic program, which he says other local schools use as a model, and recognizes the school's competitiveness and success in and out of its conference.



Anderson

Working at HFHS will also mean a shorter commute for the family man, whose fifth-grade daughter, Sierra, enjoys attending sporting events with him.

Anderson's love for athletics is evidenced in his main focus for directing the HFHS program: to work alongside coaches and help foster excellence.

"In my position, I like to help coaches and their programs be successful," Anderson said. "I've been around 30-plus years. ... I can give advice that can be beneficial. I relish in the role of helping young coaches develop and take their roles further."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

H-F faculty members honor retiring athletic director Joe Skowronski, right, at a Feb. 17 basketball game. He will retire at the end of the school year. His replacement is Alec Anderson who comes to H-F with more than 30 years of sports and coaching experience.

He is a certified athletic administrator, a member of the National Interscholastic Association of Athletic Administrators and serves as the state awards chairman for the Illinois Athletic Directors Association.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in history and physical education from Southern Illinois University — Carbondale, and a master's degree in education, administration and supervision from Governors State University.

Outside the school walls, Anderson en-

joys landscaping and gardening, which he calls "a pretty good stress reliever."

He lives with his wife, Karen, a principal's secretary at Kankakee Junior High School, and their daughter, who, naturally, enjoys playing sports. She currently plays basketball and participates in softball in the spring.

When asked what he is most excited to bring to HFHS, Anderson references his experience working at different area high schools with diverse racial and economic backgrounds, among them Urbana, Evan-

ston and Bolingbrook, and that he works well with people from all different walks of life. Coaches, he said, can use his experience to grow and cultivate better relationships with students and parents.

Anderson also brings a team-player mentality to his new role. From a coaching standpoint, Anderson expects his coaches to adopt the philosophy that the team is more important than the individual. "We'll be successful as Homewood-Flossmoor High School," he said, "not just as an individual."

PREP SPORTS NOTES

Baseball, softball leagues helping raise money for victims of house fire

The Homewood Baseball and Softball Leagues, along with Flossmoor Baseball and Softball, are helping raise money for Calvin Harden and his family after they lost everything when their home caught fire April 9.

Harden has been the president of the Homewood Baseball and Softball Leagues for the past two years, and his family has also been involved with volunteering in support of the music program at District 153.

The Harden Family Fire Fund has been established at Chase Bank, located at 18301 Dixie Highway, in Homewood, and

is accepting monetary donations.

Online donations can also be made via PayPal by following links on the league websites at <http://homewood.baberuthonline.com> or www.flossmoorbbsb.com.

H-F boys' varsity volleyball beats Andrew 2-1

Homewood Flossmoor's boys vol-

leyball team knocked off Andrew 25-23, 20-25, 25-21 on April 16.

Wyatt Patterson hammered 15 kills and tallied six blocks. Shaquille Lott dished out 20 assists to go along with seven kills and four blocks.

Kevin Noe came through with 10 digs as Homewood-Flossmoor improved to 7-3.

—Brian Brown



SPORTS

HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR ATHLETE TRACKER

Name	High School	Graduated	College	Sport	Latest news
Aaron Hauge	H-F	2009	Heartland CC	Men's Baseball	Named NJCAA pitcher of week after striking out 10 in a win over Illinois Central.
Ann Vrdolyak	Marian Catholic	2008	Loyola University (Illinois)	Women's Golf	Posted a six-over-par 78 to grab 13th place at Dolores Black Falcon Invitational.
Ashley Parrott	H-F	2009	Benedictine University (Illinois)	Women's Softball	Got a hit in a 5-2 win over Rockford.
Caitlin Jade McDonnell	H-F	2009	Arcadia University	Women's Soccer	Has started all 17 games this season; second on squad in minutes played.
Chantel Turk	H-F	2009	University of Illinois at Chicago	Women's Gymnastics	Scored a 9.775 on the floor and 9.675 on vault at NCAA Regionals.
Corey Schmidt	H-F	2008	University of Wisconsin, Whitewater	Men's Wrestling	Has a 20-16 record this season, with a fastest-pin of 4:06.
Kevin Bayles	H-F	2010	Augustana College (Illinois)	Men's Tennis	Has a 16-5 singles record this year for the 14-6 Vikings; 3-0 in doubles.
Nick Norris	H-F	2008	Judson University	Men's Baseball	He's hitting .280 with 17 RBIs for the 36-9 Eagles.
Rachel Mayer	H-F	2009	Loyola University (Illinois)	Women's Golf	Has competed in six events this season, with a nine-hole average of 87.5.
Samantha Baumgartner	H-F	2007	Judson University	Women's Softball	Has started 26 games this year, hitting .232 with nine RBIs.
Tyler Burke	H-F	2009	University of Illinois	Track and Field	Scored indoor season bests in the 60m (7.88) and 200m (27.29).

See complete Athlete Tracker at homewoodflossmoor.triblocal.com/data/sports.



