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## OBITUARY

**Nancy Mae Watts | Sept. 23, 1933 — Sept. 13, 2021**



**Nancy Mae Watts**, our matriarch, stitched family values into our bloodline for 87 years. In this feature, we honor her contribution to our lives.

**Ms. Watts** made evident, “no one was going to take care of me and my kids. I had to get out there and work for everything I got in life.” **Sister** learned to trust herself and place her faith in God, maintaining fellowship at Daniel Chapel and Mt. Zion churches.

**Nancy** preferred a life of comfortable leisure over labor, a homebody. With eyes closed, we see **Tater** huddled over the stove stirring homemade icing. Crumbs from her chocolate, caramel, and coconut cakes never touched the floors in her Harvey, Dixmoor, Robbins, Phoenix, Markham, Chicago, or Homewood homes. Time spent at **Granny's** house was stiffened by lessons in upkeep, respect, and decency. **Mama** did not play about home training!

**Ms. Nancy's** attire was “cleaner than the Board of Health.” As one of **the Woods Sisters**, she would frequent Hawks Tavern, White Rose, Talk of the Town, and Skins Lounge. **Ole Girl** also enjoyed taking trips! **Bill** made her way to Florida, Detroit,

California, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Indiana, Oregon, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, and Washington, DC.

**Aunt Nancy** favored being around the family's lighthearted laughter. Jokingly, **Grandma Na\$ty** joined into playful teasing, taking pride in knowing no one took offense to us making good fun. **Nan** did not look for validation from others. **Nancy Mae** said, “people will talk about you regardless. What's most important is to have a peace of mind!”

**Grandma's** spirit is in the presence of the Lord. Our **Sweet Nancy** is treasured for giving us her best!

## Flossmoor's Future, village board consider new festival for June 4

BY BILL JONES  
[bjones@hfchronicle.com](mailto:bjones@hfchronicle.com)

Flossmoor's Future, the organization behind the Hidden Gem Half-Marathon and Bike the Gem, might run a new festival this June in partnership with the village, but both parties still need to sort out some details — monetary commitments among them — before that can happen.

At a Flossmoor village board meeting on Jan. 18, Tom Dobrez, president of Flossmoor's Future, laid out plans for the festival and said he thinks the village should support it to the tune of \$30,000.

The idea is for a festival on June 4, 2022 — or 6-04-22, which reflects Flossmoor's ZIP code — at Leavitt Park following this year's Bike the Gem. It would include “high-end” entertainment with three tribute bands, food trucks along with local restaurants, beer and wine sales.

Trustees, in turn, questioned whether they are interested in investing that amount of money and what the true

cost may be after providing police, fire and public works support.

“I think it's a great idea, and you guys have done a great job with the Gem,” trustee James Mitros said. “I worry about the \$30,000. ... The \$30,000 plus those man hours, we're getting close to a Flossmoor Fest.”

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel said they are not far enough along in planning to know exactly what sort of resources the village would need to contribute. But she pulled Flossmoor Fest data from a few years ago, when overtime costs for staff were close to \$15,000.

Despite a board document referring to the village's monetary contribution as a “sponsorship,” Wachtel said the event, if approved, would be considered a “village event.” Flossmoor would be entering into an agreement with Flossmoor's Future to have the organization manage the fest, Wachtel clarified on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Such an arrangement would not be completely new for the village, which did something similar with Brew Fest a few years ago, Wachtel explained.