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Homewood officials hope signs will reduce U-turns on 183rd Street

BY NOAH JOHNSON
njohnson@hfchronicle.com

Homewood will install “no U-turn” signs at the delineators on 183rd Street at Center Avenue to help improve safety in the area.

Residents have complained that vehicles regularly perform U-turns around the pylons in that area, which were installed to prevent left turns at the intersection. An ordinance authorizing the installation of the signs, which was approved by the village board Tuesday, Nov. 23, aims to address that issue. It also revises the village’s traffic regulation schedule.

Residents and trustees discussed the signage idea during the Nov. 9 regular board meeting, when a study examining 183rd Street traffic patterns and ways to address safety concerns was presented.

The study effort was sparked by a crash near the intersection of 183rd Street and Center Avenue in 2020 that killed a Merrillville, Indiana, 19-year-old. In the days following the crash, residents petitioned the village to take action on speeding and other dangerous traffic behavior.

One of the next steps in the study process is finding funding for some of the study’s proposed solutions. In the meantime, Mayor Richard Hofeld has said there are things the village can do to address 183rd Street’s issues. In addition to the no U-Turn signage, Hofeld said the village can put a median to prevent left turns from Park Avenue onto 183rd Street and put signage at the Dixie Highway viaduct warning motorists heading southbound on Park Avenue that there are no left turns at 183rd Street.

In other business, the village clerk administered the oath of office to two individuals for the public works department.

Katherine Becker, a certified arborist, joins the village as a landscape maintenance worker. Becker, who has a bachelor’s degree in horticulture, came to Homewood from the Carol Stream Park District. There, she took care of the landscaping of 42 parks and ran snow removal operations during winter months.

Kenneth Bailey is in the e-tech position. He came to the village from Shorewood Home and Auto. He was a John Deer mechanic for 23 years.

District 161 search underway for new Parker Junior High principal

BY CHRONICLE STAFF

Flossmoor School District 161 officials announced a search for a new principal at Parker Junior High School.

Superintendent Dana Smith informed parents and guardians of district students about the move and a public announcement was made Dec. 3.

Principal Amabel Crawford was appointed to the position after previous principal Fred Hunter resigned in March 2019. She plans to return to her prior role as director of learning and instruction for the district on June 30, 2022.

Crawford’s transition back to the district office leaves the principal position at Parker open.

“Over the last three years, Ms. Crawford has had a positive and measurable impact on the school community, and I am grateful for her care, professionalism and expertise,” Smith said in a press release. “As she returns to the district office at the end of this school year, her focus will be on expanding our educational program offerings for all students, refining our curriculum con-

tent and generating positive academic growth for our children across the district.”

Smith invited members of the district community, including staff and parents, to participate in the search for the next principal.

The district will conduct a survey so interested participants can share their thoughts and perspectives on what they value in a principal and what characteristics will make for a fitting candidate. Some participants may also be part of the interview process once the candidate pool is compiled and narrowed down.

“Throughout this process staff, student and parent feedback will be critical as we select the next school leader. While change can be challenging, this is an exciting time for (Parker),” Smith said.

Crawford is expected to play a significant role in welcoming the new principal to Parker to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

Preliminary candidate interviews are tentatively scheduled for Jan. 18, 2022. The new principal will begin on July 1, 2022.



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