

Concerns about 183rd Street not new

Residents along 183rd Street shared concerns about speeding motorists, truck traffic, accidents and pedestrian safety.

You might be forgiven if you assumed this occurred last week. The year was 1974.

A dozen years before the 183rd Street widening project reached the construction phase, the Illinois Department of Transportation held a public meeting at James Hart School to present the idea and get feedback from the community.

VIEWPOINT

I learned about the meeting from a collection of old news stories Steve Buchtel of Goodspeed Cycles recently shared.

It turns out, the community has long wrestled with how best to configure the

street. The cover feature in this edition by Carole Sharwarko explores the latest chapter in the street's saga. A traffic study commissioned by the village was completed last year, but the issues debated in the 1970s and '80s are quite similar to the issues the community is considering now.

Homewood folks had environmental concerns back then, too, similar to what fueled the opposition to the redevelopment of Calumet Country Club the past two years. The 1974 story in the Tinley Park Star/Tribune quotes 183rd Street resident Roy Crispe: "To remove an oxygen-giving tree to make room for a carbon monoxide-giving car is asinine."

Stories from the mid-1980s, when the project was under way, focused on parking issues and on the consequences to the village of failing to complete construction, as some residents advocated.

What I have not found yet, and the 1974 story does not mention, is the reason for widening the street in the first place. Who wanted it to be four lanes? Why? What benefits to the village were expected from the project?

If any readers were here during the debates about the widening project in the 1970s and '80s and would be willing to fill me in on that, I'd be grateful. Write to ewcrump@hfchronicle.com. I'll keep looking through old stories, too. And, thanks to Steve for sharing what he's found.



Eric Crump
Columnist

Daily bicycle rides – and gratitude – following cop's donation to accident victim

By Tom Houlihan
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One act of unforgettable kindness by a Flossmoor police officer has made a world of difference in the life of an injured bike rider.

On Nov. 14, 2014, Terrell White, 22, of Country Club Hills, was severely injured when he was hit by a car while riding his bike on Crawford Avenue just south of Vollmer Road. It was about 5 p.m. and he was on his way to work at the Matteson Plaza Hut.

Flossmoor Patrol Officer David Levy responded to the accident.

While spent nearly three months at two hospitals recovering from his injuries. He had five operations and was in an induced coma for three weeks. This spring, his recovery was complete and White came to the Flossmoor police station looking for his bicycle.

"Terrell has come to the police department on several occasions to express his gratitude."

David Levy, Flossmoor patrol officer, said recently that White is doing well.

"Terrell has come to the police department on several occasions to express his gratitude in regards to the new bike and extra money to help with his vehicle," Levy said. "His car has been fixed and he said he is using his bike on a daily basis."

Levy told White that his bike had been destroyed in the accident.

After White left the station, Levy decided to start an online crowd funding campaign to replace the bike. He posted his request on GoFundMe and, within four days, raised more than \$1,700. People from all around the country made donations.

The bulk of the money went for a new bike; the remainder of the donated money went toward repairs to White's car.

The new bike came as a complete surprise to White, who was getting ready to go to work on the day of the donation.

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Michelle Nelson and Janna Henry met with Flossmoor Station officials last summer to see if the restaurant and brewery was interested in holding a fundraiser for Pangea Educational Corporation (PED), which builds schools and offers educational programs in the East African nation. Instead, the brewery offered to make a special beer using Ugandan coffee beans. A percentage of the sale of the beer in November went to PED.

Kampala Education Ale went on sale in late October and has been a hit at the brewery, Nelson said.

"The reviews have been great," she said. "People love its smoothness and the coffee undertones."

It was the first time Flossmoor Station had ever brewed a special beer for a fundraiser.

Brew for good cause helps children half-a-world away

By Tom Houlihan
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Think global, drink local. For supporters of a not-for-profit agency that provides educational opportunities in Uganda, that phrase was the key to success for a unique fundraiser in Flossmoor last month.

Michelle Nelson and Janna Henry met with Flossmoor Station officials last summer to see if the restaurant and brewery was interested in holding a fundraiser for Pangea Educational Corporation (PED), which builds schools and offers educational programs in the East African nation. Instead, the brewery offered to make a special beer using Ugandan coffee beans. A percentage of the sale of the beer in November went to PED.

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It was the first time Flossmoor Station had ever brewed a special beer for a fundraiser.

"We are super-glad we had the opportunity to participate," said Sandi Nelson, Flossmoor Station's general manager. "Kampala Education Ale was and still is being well received. What a great occasion to be able to make a difference for a community of children and people in Uganda from people and our community here in Homewood-Flossmoor."

Michelle Nelson said the fundraiser was an "awesome" experience that drew in supporters of PED from Chicago and the western suburbs, some of whom had never heard of Flossmoor.

"They were very impressed by our downtown area and the offerings at the Station," she said. "I feel like it was a win-win. The event brought people into Flossmoor, and they had a great experience. And we were able to raise a nice chunk of change for PED to help them build a library at St. James School in Uganda."

"People should take home a growler for their holiday festivities," she said. Nelson added that anyone wishing to contribute to Pangea Educational Development can do so by going to its website at www.pangeaeducation.org and clicking the upper right green button to donate.



Chronicle file photo

Page 20 in the Chronicle's first print edition in December 2015 included an ad for Pete's Auto. The Chronicle staff was saddened to hear of owner Dane Hartmann's death in mid-February.

The long slow death of local news? Not here.

Alarm bells over the decline of local news organizations have been ringing with increasing urgency in recent years.

Not here.

We don't often write about the dramatic decline in local news, because the decline ain't happening here. Since 2014, Homewood and Flossmoor have had their own newspaper, the H-F Chronicle.

We are proud to be able to buck the trend. We have local businesses and readers to thank. In 2015, when we decided to try publishing a monthly print edition, reader contributions provided enough funding to pay the printer for the first edition.

We hoped advertisers would be interested after they saw the first edition, proving we could produce a professional quality product. They didn't wait. Patty Houlihan, our first ad sales person, presented the opportunity, and local businesses came through.

Loss

One of those businesses was Pete's Auto. We were saddened to hear of owner Dane Hartmann's untimely death on Feb. 13.

A. Rene Moore posted a message on the Facebook group Moms & Dads/Friends & Neighbors of Homewood-Flossmoor.

"Dane, the man many know as being the burst of energy to greet you at Pete's Auto, passed away. His soul was so full of positive energy, I'm sure it will be felt forever. Strength and love to his family and friends. I know that I'll miss our quick talks and his jokes dearly. May he rest peacefully," she said. Her comment sparked an outpouring of similar tributes.

He was one of those who took out ads in our first editions, mainly just to help us get the print edition going.

We're grateful for his support and for all he did for the community.

And we're grateful for all of you who read the Chronicle faithfully and who support our mission of keeping the community informed.

HOMWOOD-FLOSSMOOR CHRONICLE

About us:

The Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle was launched in July 2014. The editors, with help from a number of community members and paid staff, are volunteering their time and talents to bring the latest news to residents of Homewood and Flossmoor.

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