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Homewood, Flossmoor appoint new assistant village managers

BY CHRONICLE STAFF

The villages of Homewood and Flossmoor have selected new assistant village managers to fill vacancies in the staff ranks.

Justine Bruno comes from a position in Colorado to join the Homewood administration. She is filling a vacancy left when in December Napoleon Haney moved from the assistant manager to the village manager's position.

Bruno, a Philadelphia native, earned a master's in public administration from Arizona State University. Her first position was analyst for the city of Gilbert, Arizona. From there, she transitioned to assistant to the city manager of Loveland, Colorado.

"Justine's professional background has prepared her well for this opportunity. Partnered with Homewood's current staff leaders providing depth, knowledge and support, we expect her to be absolutely successful in this role. I believe Justine will quickly add value to our exceptional organization and community," Haney said.

Bruno says she will bring a "collaborative and progressive approach" to her position along with her "enthusiasm for data-driven decision making, community engagement and fiscal responsibility."

Flossmoor selected Jonathan Bogue to be its assistant village manager. He is filling a vacancy left when Allison Matson resigned in October to become the village manager in Wauconda.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel said Bogue will be responsible for working with residents on community engagement initiatives and will oversee communications. He will also fulfill a



Jonathan Bogue



Justine Bruno

number of internal responsibilities for the village, including personnel policy management and risk management.

Bogue was named assistant village manager in Lincolnwood in 2019. His duties included leading negotiations teams in contract talks, developing the village's personnel policy manual and serving as liaison to the environmental commission.

Bogue holds a master's in public administration and policy from Northwestern University, as well

as a master's in music education from Michigan State University. Prior to his career in public administration, Bogue enjoyed a career in music education for nearly 10 years.

"I grew up in the south suburbs and have long admired Flossmoor, from its highly rated schools to its vibrant art scene. I was attracted to the opportunity to serve a diverse community and be part of a skilled leadership team," Bogue said. "I look forward to getting to know the community and being part of an inclusive environment that promotes interaction amongst residents and celebrates traditions and differences."

Serena Hills, Heather Hill will be getting playground equipment

BY BILL JONES

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The District 161 school board approved a proposal to replace three playgrounds determined to be in the worst condition across all of its schools.

The board examined new playgrounds for Heather Hill North, Serena Hills East Playground, and Serena Hills West. Frances LaBella, the district business officer, reported to the board that it will cost approximately \$850,000 to do all three, in part due to the "considerable"

price of rubber surfacing.

LaBella said the district is purchasing equipment through Sourcewell — a national purchasing contract cooperative that does the bidding and allows districts to purchase equipment through it. The board hopes to have the new equipment by the summer. The purchase is considered part of the budget for the district's next fiscal year.

In her report, LaBella said the playground at Serena Hills East will reuse a new circular slide that was ordered this year.