

Bolingbrook creates 'park zone streets'

Staff writer

Motorists who speed in park zones will be fined

By Don Grigas

By spring 2007 motorists driving through Bolingbrook will be required to proceed with extra caution near 27 parks and recreational facilities or face stiff traffic fines.

During a Bolingbrook Village Board meeting last month trustees unanimously approved an ordinance creating "park zone streets" within the village, legislation that places a limit of 20 miles per hour on motorized vehicles traveling through the designated zones.

The ordinance will take effect once the village installs signs in the designated areas, expected to be "early spring 2007," according to Michael Drey, director of Public Works.

Drey said the Illinois Department of Transportation must first provide the village with the design for signs, then the village will create and install the signs in the appropriate locations.

"IDOT is supposed to provide those designs to us some time before Jan. 1," Drey said.

Although there have been no significant instances in which speeding or unsafe driving has been an issue near parks, Bolingbrook Park District Director Ray Ochromowicz said he welcomed the ordinance.

"The rationale behind these park zone streets is the same as speed zones near schools because by nature kids who play at the parks are not always as vigilant as they should be in looking out for cars," Ochromowicz said.

"It's just common sense that motorists should exercise a little more caution when driving near a park site where children may be running and playing," Ochromowicz said.

Motorists who violate speed limits in the park zones for the first time will incur a fine of \$250, subsequent offenses will require a minimum \$500 fine.

In addition, violators will have to pay \$50 more to the Park District for "safety purposes," according to the ordinance.

Funds collected for "safety purposes" can be applied to the cost for park zone safety education, the purchase/installation of safety zone signs, road painting, caution lights, or "any expense associated with park zones and park zone streets," the ordinance states.