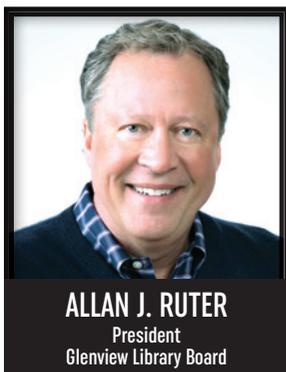


# Library remains a steadying force in Glenview



**ALLAN J. RUTER**  
President  
Glenview Library Board

Capping off the Glenview Public Library's 87th year was our designation as Star Library by the national Library Journal. This honor puts us in rarefied air, since just 22 of

642 public libraries in Illinois have been named.

Our 2017 highlights begin with community events: the spring Maker Faire, featuring rooms full of hands-on opportunities to create; late summer's solar eclipse celebration, with more than 500 calls requesting viewing glasses as a crowd gathered outside and, inside, NASA's feed was livestreamed; and this fall's GlenCon, a convergence of presenters, participants and onlookers interested in visual arts, communication and literature.

Meanwhile, local stu-

dents filled study rooms nightly, and during finals weeks they spilled into nooks, crannies and community rooms. And in a time when national political division calls into question the very nature of truth and facts, our reference librarians fielded 129,460 queries ranging from telephone numbers to defense contracts.

Library staff have finished the second year of an unprecedented three-year planning process authorized by the Board of Trustees. Last year's Internal Assessment focused on innovative thinking for con-

tinuous improvement and efficiencies. It produced an array of proposals that have been reviewed, analyzed and implemented — with an initial cost savings of \$112,500.

This year, John Huber & Associates of Tulsa, Okla., led an external assessment aimed at improving patron service through more efficient organization of staff, equipment, processes and procedures consistent with best practices of public libraries nationally. Huber targeted service-delivery chains, including acquisition, circulation and services provided by refer-

ence, youth, technology and general readers' staffs. After he presented recommendations to library leadership and trustees, implementation began.

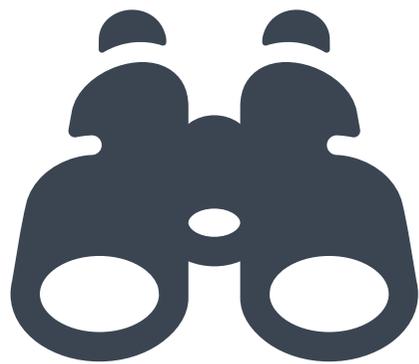
Out of these assessments emerged a pair of ideas currently being studied: Maker Space, a dedicated area for creative, innovative undertakings for all ages, and Marketplace Boutique, centralizing new acquisitions and high-demand items from our collections that will, we think, help us increase patron connections.

In 2018, we will develop a new strategic plan built,

in part, from the internal and external assessments. Crucial to this process will be input from a wide swath of village taxpayers and leaders.

As the library begins to plan for its 90th anniversary in 2020, we are reminded that from the 1700s until now, American public libraries have continually evolved, evaluated and re-envisioned themselves. The library's tagline — "Educate, Enrich, Inspire, Entertain" — affirms our 21st century commitment to expand our outreach to an ever-growing community of patrons.

## Do you See this Ad?

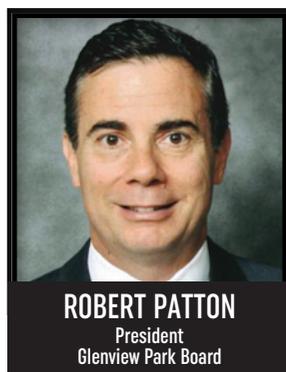


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## Individual wins tell the whole story at Park District



**ROBERT PATTON**  
President  
Glenview Park Board

For the Glenview Park District, which had its AAA bond rating reconfirmed by Moody's Investors Service and was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association award for Excellent in Financial Reporting for the 10th year, 2017 was a year of firsts and a year to celebrate milestones.

Most notably, we embarked on developing a comprehensive master plan, which will guide our decision-making in the next 10 years. As part of this process, we assessed our current Park District

assets, held community meetings, conducted a community survey, met with community stakeholders and solicited resident feedback.

Our findings show a need to repair the 44-year-old Ice Center, make improvements at The Grove, and expand green infrastructure opportunities by purchasing available open space. At the Dec. 21 meeting, the board will decide on a potential ballot question about these projects for the March election.

Having just celebrated 10 years of service as a commissioner, I have enjoyed the significant feedback we have been able to gather to help make decisions for our community's future.

2017 was a year of anniversaries. The Park District celebrated 90 years of service in July, and in September, Jackman Park's iconic bear statue, seen as a symbol of community strength, had its

100th birthday as choirs sang "The Bare Necessities," "The Jungle Book" and "Hug the Bear."

Speaking of history, well-known Glenview settler Robert Kennicott earned a place at the Smithsonian National Museum, a fitting tribute to one of the Smithsonian's earliest contributors. "Objects of Wonder: From the Collections of the National Museum of Natural History" includes Kennicott's skeletal remains, recognizing his contributions through hundreds of specimens he submitted.

From leisure activities to training the next generation, we have a strong athletics program. So it was wonderful to see Sam Iida, formerly of the Glenview Titan Aquatic Club, named to the 2017-2018 USA Swimming National Junior Team.

He earned a berth alongside Glenview native Olivia Smoliga in the 2016 Olympic trials, and has

a good shot at the next Olympics.

High demand from residents resulted in new opportunities on Lake Glenview.

The Park District issued 49 permits during year one of non-motorized boating access.

The Park District does more than provide recreation. We're here to protect resources for future generations. Land at The Grove and the Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie was dedicated as nature preserves in 2017. We also incorporated more fuel-efficient propane vehicles into the Park District fleet and installed LED Athletic lighting at Flick Park, which received more than \$56,000 in ComEd incentives.

On behalf of all the members of the Board of Commissioners and staff of the Glenview Park District, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.