

## THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

Glenview voters overwhelmingly support renovated ice center, Grove improvements, Page 3



The Glenview Park District's referendum to renovate the ice center, improve safety at The Grove and purchase open space for park purposes passed with a two-thirds majority on March 20.  
IMAGE SUBMITTED

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**Easter**  
at The Orchard

Sunday, April 1 - 9 & 10:30 a.m.

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Meeting at Christian Heritage Academy



315 Waukegan Road, Northfield, IL 60093

**ews** COVER STORY

# Park District referendum passes with two-thirds majority

**CHRIS PULLAM, Editor**

Glenview voters have spoken: They are overwhelmingly in favor of improvements to the Glenview Park District, according to unofficial results from the Cook County Clerk's website.

The referendum — which called for renovating the Glenview Ice Center, improving The Grove and purchasing open space for parks — passed Tuesday, March 20, without a hitch, as approximately 64.58 percent of voters approved of the District's plan. Initial results showed 8,032 votes for the \$17 million bond referendum to 4,405 against.

On Wednesday, March 21, the Glenview Park District thanked the Citizen Task Force and residents for their support leading up to the vote.

"We are grateful to our taxpayers for their support of this important funding measure. The end result will be recreation facilities that are safer and more secure, energy efficient, more accessible for persons with disabilities, and positioned to better meet the needs of our district residents for generations to come," said Mike McCarty, Park District executive director, in a statement.

All three projects will cost an estimated total of \$33.1 million, according to Katie Skibbe, deputy executive director at the Park District. Approximately half that amount will be raised through the referendum bonds. The remainder will come from alternate revenue source bonds that will not impact taxes (\$10 million), current fund balances (\$6.1 million) and potential

community donations.

The vast majority of the funds, \$29.45 million, will go toward the ice center renovations, with another \$2.65 million and \$1 million allocated to The Grove improvements and open-space purchases, respectively.

"[Hearing the referendum passed] was very exciting," Skibbe said. "We have a lot of users at the ice center. It's a very well-loved and -used facility. And The Grove is obviously very well-loved and -used. To be able to provide improvements to these facilities and give users a better experience is a really exciting thing."

As *The Glenview Lantern* reported late last year, the estimated annual tax impact of the bond measure would be \$35.69 for a \$500,000 home, or approximately \$2.97 per month.

Leading up to the vote, the Park District framed the issue as impacting the ice center in two different ways: either residents voted to renovate the four-decade-old facility, thereby making it more profitable and reducing future costs, or the District would spend between \$8-12.5 million to repair the current complex without any added benefits.

But not everyone was convinced by the District's proposal.

Longtime Glenview resident Richard Day opposed the bond measure. In a Letter to the Editor submitted after *The Lantern's* final deadline, he insinuated that the Park District added The Grove improvements and open-space purchases to the referendum as bait for yes votes.

After the referendum passed, he elaborate fur-



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ther: "They already had enough money (through current fund balances) to make the repairs and fixes at The Grove, but they wanted to attach that [to the referendum] to attract the support of voters who wouldn't have supported the ice center but who love The Grove and open space. The fact is, they had enough money to do both without raising another dime."

Day, a longtime political analyst, headed his own survey/market research firm for more than three decades, providing pre-election polling, exit polling and election night analysis for ABC 7. Through his business, he helped pass referendums for multiple nonprofit groups, including the Lake County Forest Preserve District's successful attempt to set aside open land.

"It's a standard way that groups like this pass referendums," Day said. "They have something that they want but they can't pass, so they increase community support by combining it with other things so people don't pay attention to the \$29 million [cost of the ice center], they don't pay attention to the fact that the district already has money for the other things."

On the opposite end of the spectrum was Glenview resident Cheryl Johnson, president of the Glenbrook girls hockey team that will face New Trier in the state championship on Saturday, March 24, at the United Center.

"I'm ecstatic," she said after the referendum passed. "I'm very happy. This is something that's really, really good for Glenview."

According to Johnson, whose three children all played hockey in Glenview, the Glenbrook girls team hasn't been able to practice on a full-size rink in town for several years. Instead, they practice on a smaller rink at the ice center, which poses safety concerns for the 19 high-school girls, and play their home games at the Northbrook Sports Center.

"It would be awesome for them to play some games at the ice center," Johnson said. "Thirteen of our girls are from GBS, and they'd love to play in front of their home crowd."

The referendum also found a supporter in Glenview resident Judy Beck — vice president of the Grove Heritage Association, member of Glenview's Natural Resources Com-

## PROJECT DETAILS

### Costs

Ice center renovations: \$29.45 million  
The Grove improvements: \$2.65 million  
Open-space purchases: \$1 million

### Revenue sources

Referendum bonds: \$17 million  
Other bonds: \$10 million  
Park District savings: \$6.1 million  
Community donations: remainder

### Ice center renovation timeline\*

- 03/23/2018 — Begin drafting design/engineering/construction documents
- 03/23/2018 — Begin conditional use permit process through the Village of Glenview
- 07/23/2018 — Begin construction project permitting through the Village of Glenview
- 12/2018 — Bond issuance of \$10 million non-referendum alternate revenue bonds (does not affect taxes)
- 1/3/2019 — Bid notice
- 2/2019 — Bond issuance of \$17 million referendum general obligation bonds (does affect taxes)
- 2/14/2019 — Bid opening
- 5/6/2019 — Groundbreaking
- 5/6/2019-9/3/2019 — Full ice center operation shutdown
- 6/29/2020-8/31/2020 — Partial ice center operation shutdown
- 9/4/2020 — Construction complete
- 9/16/2020 — Soft opening
- 9/19/2020 — Grand opening

\* This information was provided by the Glenview Park District as a projection for construction-related milestones.

mission, former 32-year commissioner of the Park Board, former president of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and namesake of Glenview's Judy Beck Park at 735 Carriage Hill Drive.

Beck, who also served on the committee that sent mailing to residents prior to the vote, supported the 1974 referendum that saved The Grove from a residential development project. That referendum, which passed 11-1, allowed

the Glenview Park District to purchase and maintain the land to this day.

"Back then, people realized it would be something very special for the community," Beck said. "Now, to see that support again, it makes you feel really good. So many people in the community use and benefit from both these facilities. They're both multi-generational hallmarks, and anytime a park district [supports] that, they're doing something right."