Holding tracks defeated in 2019, new developments on the horizon

The Village’s more-than-four-year quest to eliminate freight holding tracks from a larger project to expand Amtrak Hiawatha service between Chicago and Milwauk ee took a major step forward in 2019. A letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation acting secretary in May took the position that it would not agree to freight train holding tracks in Glenview or Lake For est as part of the project. Village officials, with the backing of the citizen-based Glenview ACTION Committee, contended the more-than-two-mile holding track planned next to the existing Union Pacific tracks through six residential neighborhoods in west Glenview would have created significant impacts, including traffic, diesel emissions, noise, vibration and other environmental issues, on the community.

Freight trains were to be parked on the holding track until they were assured clear passage to and from the Bensenville freight yard. The IDOT letter to state Sens. Laura Fine (D-Glenview) and Julie Morrison (D-Deerfield), who worked diligently on the community’s behalf with other state and federal legislators, came after years of opposition activities that included public meetings, petitions, formal objection letters and other grassroots efforts.

The Village took a number of actions related to state laws. Glenview is following Illinois’ schedule of minimum wage increases, which rose to $9.25 per hour on Jan. 1, 2020.consistent with state law that went into effect in July, sales of tobacco, electronic cigarettes and alternative nicotine products in Glenview are prohibited to anyone under the age of 21. While retail marijuana sales are now legal in Illi nois, the Glenview Village Board of Trustees voted in November to ban such sales in Glenview.

At the recommendation of the Police and Fire Pension Boards, the Village moved to a new open-funding policy for the police and fire pension funds to establish a more financially sound pension funding plan that over time reduces unfunded liability and creates greater annual pension contribution stability. The move means a contribution increase of $2.1 million in 2020. More than $13 million was spent in 2019 to recon struct and resurface roads, upgrade storm and sanitary sewers, and make other capital improvements. Major projects included a second phase of flood-relief work in the neighborhood east of Harms Road; replac ing the retaining wall along the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River by River Drive; and constructing, with Northbrook, a multi-use path on the east side of Shermer Road from West Lake Avenue to Willow Road. A number of private developments were complete or nearing completion by year’s end, including the new headquarters of the Western Golf Association.

48 single-family cluster homes off Milwaukee Avenue at Enclave at The Grove and 169 rental units targeted to active seniors 55 and older at Avidor on Waukegan Road.

Other developments under review during 2019 generated a great deal of public interest. They included:

• A proposal to build 29 single-family detached residences off Willow Road in between two other subdivisions. The Village Board of Trustees voted in August to extend Meadowview Drive through the new Parkside of Glenview, but included a gate on the west side.

• A proposal to develop the southwest corner of the Willow and Pfingsten roads intersection with four retail buildings. The Village Board of Trustees voted in December to preliminarily move the project forward. A final vote is scheduled Jan. 7.

• A proposal to build 68 apartments over ground-floor retail at 1850 Glenview Road, the former site of Bess Hardware. The project is currently before the Plan Commission for its review and recommendation.

On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees and staff, I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2020.

2019 an ‘exciting year of growth’ for Park District

Just drive past the Ice Center on Landwehr Road, and you’ll know 2019 has been an exciting year of growth in the Glenview Park District.

When the curtain closed on the April 26 annual GPD Ice Show “Live, Love, Skate” in the Glenview Park District, it’s nearly a wrap on improvements to The Interpretive Center. The animals and their visitors will soon find themselves in a larger space with new tanks, as well as new HVAC, electrical, plumbing and fire sprinkler systems.

A big highlight for visitors will be the Turtle Island, designed by Paul Bluestone, a former vice president for the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, and built by Cenrock in Arizona. Turtle Island includes a turtle habitat, water snake tanks, a kestrel habitat and tunnels for visitors for closer interaction with the animals. The 15,000-pound exhibit arrived on flatbed trailers during a series of deliveries in October.

Visitors to The Grove will also notice an improved entrance to the grounds, with a gleaming new sign, a wider entrance with a turning lane off Milwaukee Avenue, and new plantings along the road. The $2.6 million renovation of the Grove is part of the $17 million voter-approved referendum that includes construction of the Glenview Community Ice Center.

The financial health of the Glenview Park District continues to be strong. Moody’s Investors Services once again recognized the district as tops in the field, again assigning the park district its Aaa bond rating. The rating is a testament to good governance and management of the district and the strong Glenview economy.

A few other highlights from the year:

• Estimated restaurant owners and brothers Franco and Vito Francese

Please see PARKS, 9
D225 keeps commitment to excellence under new superintendent Dr. Johns

As the new superintendent of Glenbrook District 225, I have been fortunate to spend the last half of this year getting to know those who make our district thrive — our community, our staff and our students. Over the course of these months, I have witnessed the incredible array of talents that radiate throughout our classrooms, activities, arts and athletics.

Observing our students as they pursue their passions, my applause only continues to grow louder.

Just in the past couple of weeks, I’ve enjoyed the spirit in the room as GBN and GBS competed in a wrestling meet against one another; I was moved by the incredible support of peers as our Teaching Life Skills (TLS) students performed “Willy Wonka” on stage; I felt the excitement of the GBS pep assembly and the energy as faculty were incorporated into the fun; and, I was astounded by the skills of our second-year Spanish students at GBN.

In my short time in the community, I’ve witnessed firsthand the tremendous pride our residents, businesses and families have for the Glenbrook schools. This pride is the result of decades of hard work and dedication to excellence. The community is supportive; our staff is dedicated, and our students are determined.

Heading into 2020, I plan to continue my goals for the district of honoring the past, enjoying the present, and working to create the future. It is of the utmost importance to me, as we accomplish these goals, that our students are safe, supported, and positioned to achieve their dreams.

Providing our students with the best means possible to continue their growth and development after high school is our key responsibility. Enabling young people to grasp ways that they can create an exciting and compelling future for themselves and their community is part of our mission.

Our students are problem-finders, problem-solvers, and above all, they are leaders — leaders of their peers, leaders of their community and leaders of their future.

I cannot thank everyone enough for the warm welcome. As I continue my journey on the leadership team at the Glenbrooks, I will never be done learning and we will never be done improving.

I would love to hear your stories — your treasured memories of our district’s history, something that brings you joy in this community and your aspirations for the future. See you next year!

——

YEAHRIN 2019

PARKS

unveiled their new restaurant, Coarse Italian, at the Glenview Park Golf Club.

• The 4th of July Committee’s first-ever 50-50 raffle went to a Texas woman who grew up in Glenview and was home for the holiday. Mariah Hays planned to use her net take home of $9,700 to buy furniture for rooms in her home that were previously unfurnished.

• Masterful designer and historian Dennis Downes created a 16-foot sculpture of a trail marker tree for The Grove. Native Americans used trail marker trees to get from point A to point B. They would bend an oak or maple sapling, then secure it to a stake, allowing it to grow horizontally and point toward a trail that often led to a fresh water source.

• Our first Junior Triathlon took place in July at Park Center. It coincided with the Park Center Sprint Triathlon, which inspired father-and-son duo Marc and Eric Nardulli to train together for a race held at the same location on the same day.

• Historic Wagner Farm has a new crosswalk connecting the parking lot with the farm. It’s a safety upgrade complete with lights that flash when pedestrians are in the crosswalk, new striping on the pavement and rumble strips on the roadway.

Visitors are noticing another change at Historic Wagner Farm: the addition of several Guernsey dairy calves to the mostly Holstein herd.

With a park district as vibrant and diverse as the Glenview Park District, there are always new sports to try, new programs to explore, and improvements to facilities and grounds to make the district more accessible to all of our district residents. Our vision is a community in which everyone enjoys happiness, health and an appreciation for nature on a daily basis, and our staff strives every day to make that vision a reality.

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

BEST STORIES

From Page 8

Glenview actress hits her stride with new Showtime series - September


The role she plays was written with her in mind, and she jumped at the opportunity. Anglin told The Lantern the show is funny, real and “uniquely human” because of how it deals with themes that everyone can relate to — struggles with love, family, identity, to name a few — in a comedic way.

“It’s a project I’m thrilled about,” Anglin said.

GBS students’ character shines bright in 2019

Last year, I was visiting with students after school at the Knitting Club (yes, we have a Knitting Club!). Three freshman girls were chatting away, and I asked them if they knew each other before coming to Glenbrook South, or if they had just met.

They said that two of them had known each other, but the third one had just met the other two girls. I asked how they became friends. One girl said about the other two, “They asked me to sit with them at lunch.” I loved that answer so much, for so many reasons, that I asked them to tell me the story of how they met again, just so I could feel the happy feeling again.

It was a story about a simple act of kindness, one that happened on a random day in a matter of seconds. But to me, it represented the hope I have for the future. Today’s teenagers are now famous for their constant use of technology, high levels of anxiety and recently formed addiction to vaping.

But like all stereotypes, that does not represent the reality for all teens. Every day at Glenbrook South, I witness students acting with care and compassion for others, whether they are holding the door for a classmate, helping a friend with homework, or on a more serious note, reporting their concerns about a peer to a trusted adult.

While the week of Dec. 16 was Random Acts of Kindness week, sponsored by the GBS Key Club, I would propose that random acts of kindness happen every day, every day of the school year.

At Glenbrook South, we strive to prepare our students for the rigorous work of college and careers. We emphasize critical thinking, problem solving and textual analysis. We challenge all of our students to reach their full academic potential, even when it means stretching themselves to take on more difficult work than they have previously encountered.

Still, when all is said and done, we value kindness above all. We want our students to become adults who respect other people, regardless of their differences, and treat others with dignity.

As principal of GBS, I care more about our students developing into good human beings than I do about how they perform on a standardized test, which colludes they get into or their GPAs.

This world needs more “we” and less “me,” and today’s youth are the future. I feel so fortunate to work in a school — and particularly such a vibrant and welcoming school — so that I can play a small part in impacting the future.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff and entire learning community. On behalf of GBS, I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe new year (and decade)!