

# Unseasonably Warm Temps Good For Ice Center Project

Tree Recycling Open, Sledding Hills, Outdoor Ice Rinks Closed

By TOM ROBB  
Journal & Topics Reporter

Although snow on Halloween and a frosty November kept Glenview Park District officials concerned about possible winter weather delays on construction projects, a warmer than expected December has been a boon to those projects, especially Glenview Ice Center renovations.

Parks officials opened their annual Christmas tree recycling program Thursday, Dec. 26. Trees can be dropped off through Friday, Jan. 31 at seven collection points: Glenview Public Works, 2498 East Lake Ave.; Johns Park, 2102 Central Rd.; Flick Park, 3600 Glenview Rd.; Cunliff Park, 540 Echo Ln.; Cole Park, 1031 Kenilworth Ave.; Willow Park, 2600 Greenwood Ave.; and Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd. Trees will be chopped into mulch and used at park and school locations throughout Glenview.

In past years, Glenview parks crews would drag some of those trees out onto the ice of Lake Glenview. When the ice would melt, trees would sink and become part of the ecosystem, feeding fish and creating habitat. Johnson said the lake is established, meaning creating that habitat is not as necessary as it was when the man made lake was newer.

Although recent weather, which according to the National Weather Service reached 61 degrees Fahrenheit at O'Hare Airport last Thursday, Dec. 26, has closed



New walls are quickly going up at the Glenview Ice Center as seen on a recent balmy day. (Glenview Park District photo)

Glenview park sledding hills and outdoor skating rinks, officials said temperatures have not affected park programs.

The near total renovation of the Glenview Ice Center is making good progress aided by those unseasonably warm temperatures. Park district officials said second floor elements of the ice center were installed along with some roofing elements. Parks spokeswoman Jena Johnson said roofing elements are weather dependent and cannot be installed when temperatures fall below zero degrees.

Parks officials planned to continue the ice center project during the onset of colder winter weather this year, and found more flexibility provided by warmer temperatures.

Much of the work at The Grove, including a new exterior security gate, a right turn deceleration lane, roadwork and parking lot work was completed in the fall. Johnson said sealcoating of the new lots along with plantings would be completed in the spring.

Work inside The Grove's Interpretive Center continues at a strong pace, which is not weather

dependent. A grand opening for The Grove and Interpretive Center is scheduled in the first quarter of 2020.

"While 50s and even 60s certainly do happen in December, this prolonged duration was particularly noteworthy because it was accompanied with a great deal of sunshine and occurred late in the month (more rare) and overlapped the Christmas holiday," a statement for the Chicago area issued by the National Weather Service said.

"Why So Warm?" the National Weather Service statement continued, "The weather pattern for

several weeks had generally been a mild one. In fact December 2019 has only had five days with below normal temperatures in Chicago. The pattern has also been notably drier than much of the autumn was. The drier pattern has resulted in well below normal snowfall for December, and without snow on the ground locking in colder air, any cold surge has been temporary. Finally, southerly winds were dominant for days, resulting in inching up temperatures, and the sunny pattern (helped by lack of snow cover in the region), further resulted in warming."

## D63 Teacher Joana Sanchez Named 'Hero In Classroom'

By TOM ROBB  
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Apollo Elementary School teacher Joana Sanchez, named a "Symetra Hero in the Classroom", was surprised by the honor when summoned to the principal's office for what she believed was a routine meeting.

The honor comes with a check for \$2,000 for school supplies along with being honored on the field at Soldier Field during the Dec. 22 Chicago Bears game against the Kansas City Chiefs.

Sanchez is a second grade dual-

language instructor in East Maine Elementary School Dist. 63 who goes the extra mile for her students, which includes their families.

"Joana Sanchez brings her heart and soul to Apollo and to the entire district, which should come as no surprise as she is a product of D63 herself. An alumna of our Nelson Elementary School, Ms. Sanchez is a skilled part of our Dual Language Program. Through the program, Spanish-speaking students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade may be placed in classrooms taught simultaneously in Spanish

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Joana Sanchez and her second grade class at Apollo School in Dist. 63. (Photo submitted)