

Monthly Mailbag - Ask President Jenny

By Michael Jenny, Glenview Village President

Nhe Village of Glenview created a Community Engagement Plan earlier this year to better educate residents about the Village's role and proactively arm them with information about Village services, development projects, special events and other priority topics, and create additional opportunities for two-way dialogue between the Village and the community.

We hope that this column, a monthly mailbag to address questions from the public, offers a space to address the big issues that are important to you. If you've got questions about new development, how a statewide or national issue impacts Glenview, how the budget gets made or how a Village process works, I'll be answering those questions right here each month.

Before we get to the questions, I want to wish you a healthy, joyous holiday season and a happy New Year.

What's the status of the Village's Economic Development Strategic Plan?

The Village adopted the Economic Development Strategic Plan in August to encompass a Village-wide strategy with a focus on three commercial corridors (Milwaukee Avenue, Willow Road and Waukegan Road) and two districts (The Glen Town Center and Downtown).

The goal is to implement strategies that will provide continued economic vitality of Glenview, including recommendations for investment and policy reform. We want to ensure we retain businesses, attract new ones and arm business owners with the tools that will contribute to the long-term economic health of the Village.

The Board of Trustees is currently working on implementing recommendations from both the Economic Development Strategic Plan and the Downtown Revitalization Plan, and we took a major step forward at our Nov. 16 Board meeting by authorizing a new development agreement to bring a new movie theater operator to Glenview at The Glen Town Center. Feedback from the community showed a strong desire for a new theater following the closure of ArLight Cinemas in April. Landmark Theatre plans to improve the space and open in advance of summer blockbuster season in 2022.

What does the conclusion of the Glen TIF mean for property owners on The Glen?

The conclusion of the Glen TIF won't have any practical impacts on residents and only changes where your tax dollars go – not how much you pay.

Closing a TIF district means that area taxing districts are able to begin directly receiving property taxes generated from The Glen. Going forward, instead of property tax payments being made to a TIF fund to be used for economic development and infrastructure improvements, those payments will go directly to taxing districts, including the Glenview Public Library, Glenview Park District, Village of Glenview and School Districts 30, 34 and 225.

I'm proud of the work of countless Village elected officials, staff, and partner agencies over the past two decades that made the Glen TIF possible and provided us with some amazing developments, including Gallery Park, Attea Middle School, Park Center, Fire Station 14, and an additional 649 acres of private resident and commercial developments.

It has been one of the most successful TIF districts in the region and is a model for how to redevelop decommissioned military bases.

What's the story behind the Jackman Park bear?

Great question! The Bear made his official debut in 1917 at the southeast corner of Glenview Road and Pine Street. He was dedicated to the children of Glen View (as it was then named) by Edwin S. Jackman. The Bear has moved a few times over the decades before occupying his current perch in a plaza adjacent to Jackman Park.

The Bear has been part of the Village's logo since at least the late 1960s, and "Hug the Bear" became its motto. It serves as a reminder that residents -- individually and collectively -- should continue to give, serve and care about the community. To "Hug the Bear" is to "hug" the community.

Have a question for President Jenny? Email askpresident-jenny@glenview.il.us and your question could be featured in next month's mailbag.



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